

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 2:09 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: FW: Geraldine Lazarre, TriMerge Consulting Group, PA (Mom and Pop Grant) INQ 17-20
Attachments: INQ 17-20 Lazarre.pdf; Lazarre Applic..pdf; Lazarre email re bd service.pdf; Ordinance 14-44.pdf

INQ 17-20

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 2:07 PM
To: 'TriMerge Consulting Group, PA' <info@TriMergeConsulting.com>
Subject: Geraldine Lazarre, TriMerge Consulting Group, PA (Mom and Pop Grant) INQ 17-20

Dear Ms. Lazarre:

Attached is the Mom and Pop Grant Opinion. Please note that it indicates that you may accept a grant as long as the Jackson Health System General Obligation Bond Citizens' Advisory Committee, on which you serve as a board member, is not involved in any way in processing or administering the grant. Further, you may not lobby for the grant. (See the County Ethics Code at Secs. 2-11.1 (c) and (m)(1).).

Please send a copy of this letter to Neighbors and Neighbors; you may also print a copy for your file.

Sincerely,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 579-2594
Fax: (305) 579-0273
gdiazgr@miamidade.gov
www.facebook.com/MiamiDadeEthics

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Via email at: info@trimergeconsulting.com

January 30 2017

Geraldine Lazarre
TriMerge Consulting Group, P.A.
1444 Biscayne Boulevard,
Suite #115-21
Miami, FL 33132

***Please submit this letter to
Neighbors and Neighbors
Association, Inc. The Ethics
Commission does not
submit this letter on your
behalf.***

Re: INQ 17-20, Mom & Pop Grant

Dear Ms. Lazarre:

You inquired whether the County Ethics Code would prevent your privately-owned company, TriMerge Consulting Group, P.A., from accepting a Mom & Pop Grant funded through County Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson's District 3 Office. You serve as a Board Member on the Jackson Health System General Obligation Bond Citizens' Advisory Committee ("JHS Bond CAC"). The Advisory Committee is established solely for the purpose of advising the Board of County Commissioners, the Public Health Trust, and County Mayor regarding Jackson Health System's General Obligation Bond Program (the "Bond Program"). We note that you have previously applied to District 2 for a Mom and Pop Grant. It is our understanding that you are permitted to apply for a Mom and Pop Grant in District 3 given that you advise that your business currently has an office within District 3, and that your application meets the criteria for the grant in that district.

Briefly, your company ***may accept a grant as long as*** the JHS Bond CAC is not involved in any way in processing or administering the grant. Furthermore, you ***may not lobby for the grant.*** See the County Ethics Code at Secs. 2-11.1 (c) and (m)(1)

Be advised that the County Ethics Commission has interpreted lobbying expansively when applied to County public officers. This means that you may not contact anyone within the

County (or anyone working on behalf of the County) in an attempt to influence his or her decision about the grant you are seeking.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Inquiries regarding possible conflicts under state law should be directed to the State of Florida Commission on Ethics.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gilma Diaz-Greco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "D".

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney

INQ 17-20
Lazarre
Page 2

Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)

From: glazarre@trimergecpa.com
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 4:15 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: RE: Mom and Pop Grant

Yes. I resigned off the Miami Dade Black Affairs Advisory board at our meeting earlier this month. I thought after 10 years of volunteer work it was time. So as of the date of this letter I serve on only this Miami-Dade county board.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Mom and Pop Grant
From: "Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)" <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>
Date: 1/20/17 1:06 pm
To: "Gerri Lazarre" <glazarre@trimergecpa.com>

Thank you. Is this the only County board on which you are currently serving?

From: Gerri Lazarre [mailto:glazarre@trimergecpa.com]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 12:13 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>
Subject: RE: Mom and Pop Grant

The Jackson Health System Citizen Advisory Committee for the bond, I have included a link below.

<http://www.jacksonhealth.org/jackson-bond-program-CAC.asp>

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) [mailto:Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 11:50 AM
To: 'Gerri Lazarre' <glazarre@trimergecpa.com>
Subject: RE: Mom and Pop Grant

Ms. Lazarre:

Please clarify which advisory board you are currently serving on.

Thanks and best regards,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco

Staff Attorney



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820

Miami, FL 33130

Tel: (305) 579-2594

Fax: (305) 579-0273

gdiazgr@miamidade.gov

www.facebook.com/MiamiDadeEthics

From: Gerri Lazarre [<mailto:glazarre@trimergecpa.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 5:15 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>
Subject: Mom and Pop Grant

Hello Gilma and Happy New Year.

We are apply for the Mom and Pop grant for District 3 and would like to request an opinion from the Commission.

Thanks in advance.

Gerri



Goldman
Sachs

10,000
small
businesses

Gerri Lazarre, CPA, MsTax – Managing Partner

Licensed CPA in the District of Columbia, State of Florida and Georgia.

ACCOUNTING - AUDIT – TAX – BUSINESS ADVISORY – PROFESSIONAL STAFFING

1200 G Street, NW Suite #800

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Disclaimer under IRS Circular 230: Unless expressly stated otherwise in this transmission, nothing contained in this message is intended or written to be used, nor may it be relied upon or used, (1) by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and/or (2) by any person to support the promotion or marketing of or to recommend any Federal tax transaction(s) or matter(s) addressed in this message.

If you desire a formal opinion on a particular tax matter for the purpose of avoiding the imposition of any penalties, we will discuss the additional Treasury requirements that must be met and whether it is possible to meet those requirements under the circumstances, as well as the anticipated time and additional fees involved.

Confidentiality Disclaimer: This e-mail message and any attachments are private communication sent by a CPA firm, TriMerge Consulting Group, P.A. dba TriMergeCPA, and may contain confidential, legally privileged information meant solely for the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Please notify the sender immediately by replying to this message, then delete the e-mail and any attachments from your system. Thank you

Request for Opinion from Commission on Ethics Acquiring Financial Interest

I, Geraldine Lazarre, the owner or president of
(Owner or President Name)

Tri Merge Consulting Group, PA, whose business address is
(Business Name)

1444 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite #115-21, Miami, FL 33132
(Business Address, City, State, Zip)

305-940-5344 info@trimergeconsulting.com
(Phone #) (Email)

Include a short description of the type of business operating certified public
accountants and consultants

Are you currently an employee or board member of any Miami Dade County Board?
Yes No no yes

If yes, what Department or Board? GOB Citizens' Advisory Committee

If yes, are you seeking to contract with Miami Dade County? Yes _____ No: _____

I am being considered for funding through the Mom and Pop Small Business Grant Program and request the clearance from the Commission on Ethics. Please review my request and forward to Neighbors And Neighbors Association, Inc. to the attention of Leroy Jones, Executive Director, 180 NW 62nd St., Miami, FL 33150 or fax (305) 756-6008. Thank you in advance for your attention to this very important matter.

Audrey M Edmonson
111 NW 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128

This page must be completed.

* we are a registered vendor with Miami Dade County, and in the Management Consulting Services Pool of vendors. We recently submitted a proposal for services to be performed in this pool on 11/6/17.