



MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST

19 West Flagler Street, Suite 820 · Miami, Florida 33130
Phone: (305) 579-2594 · Facsimile: (305) 579-0273
Website: ethics.miamidade.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Yvonia Payne, Correctional Corporal, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department

FROM: Gilma Diaz-Greco, Staff Attorney
Commission on Ethics

SUBJECT: INQ 19-115

DATE: 11-4-19

CC: All COE Legal Staff; Office of the Miami-Dade Commissioner, Dennis C. Moss, District 9; Victoria Goss, Training Coordinator, Neighbors and Neighbors Association

Thank you for contacting the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust and requesting our guidance regarding County employees applying for Mom and Pop Grants which are funded by Miami-Dade County.

Facts:

You are employed by the Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department as a Correctional Corporal. You would like to apply for a Mom and Pop Grant for your privately-owned company, Savvy Sexy Sheek Fashion, LLC. ("SSSF"). Mom and Pop Grants are funded by Miami-Dade County. Neighbors and Neighbors Association, a not-for-profit organization, administers and makes recommendations regarding the Mom and Pop Grant applications; funds are distributed by the Commission offices of the 13 County Districts to businesses that meet the requirements of the grants. SSSF is applying for a Mom and Pop Grant funded through Miami-Dade Commissioner, Dennis C. Moss' District 9 Office.

Issue:

Whether the County Ethics Code would prevent your privately-owned company, SSSF, from accepting a Mom & Pop Grant.

Discussion and Opinion

Your inquiry involves several sections of the County Ethics Code which are analyzed below:

A. Outside Employment

Work conducted for SSSF, your privately-owned business, constitutes outside employment. The County Ethics Code prohibits County employees from engaging in conflicting outside employment. Conflicting employment is sometimes created when a County employee comes in contact with the same or similar people or entities in both his outside employment and in his County job or when he uses the same or similar resources in his outside employment as he uses in his County work. Also note that you may not use County time or resources in the performance of your outside employment. *See* County Ethics Code §§ 2-11.1 (g) and (j), Miami-Dade Code 2-11, and Administrative order 7-1.

Please note that this letter does not grant you permission to engage in outside employment. You must obtain permission to engage in outside employment yearly from your department Director. Given that you are a full-time employee, you **must also** file the related outside employment financial disclosure form, the Outside Employment Statement yearly.

B. Mom and Pop Grant

Once you have been granted permission to engage in outside employment, your company, SSSF may ***accept the Mom and Pop Grant***, as long as the Corrections and Rehabilitation Department which employs you, is not involved in any way in processing or administering the grant. This includes the condition that you may not participate in determining or awarding the grant. Additionally, none of your job responsibilities and job descriptions may require you to be involved in the grant in any way including, but not limited to, its enforcement, oversight, administration, amendment, extension, termination or forbearance. *See* County Ethics Code §§ 2-11.1 (c) and (n).

C. Lobbying

Additionally, you may not lobby the County. In this case, it means that you may not contact anyone within the County in an attempt to influence a decision about SSSF's application for a Mom and Pop Grant. *See* County Ethics Code §2-11.1 (m)(1).

D. Exploitation of Official Position

Finally, the County Ethics Code prohibits County employees from exploitation of their official position. This means that you may not use your County position to secure **special**

privileges or exemptions with respect to participating in any grant program to which your company is applying. *See* County Ethics Code § 2-11.1(g).

This opinion is limited to the facts as you presented them to the Commission on Ethics and is limited to an interpretation of the County Ethics Code only and is not intended to interpret state laws. Questions regarding state ethics laws should be addressed to the Florida Commission on Ethics.

INQs are informal ethics opinions provided by the legal staff after being reviewed and approved by the Executive Director. INQs deal with opinions previously addressed in public session by the Ethics Commission or within the plain meaning of the County Ethics Code. RQOs are opinions provided by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust when the subject matter is of great public importance or where there is insufficient precedent. While these are informal opinions, covered parties that act contrary to the opinion may be referred to the Advocate for preliminary review or investigation and may be subject to a formal Complaint filed with the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Payne, Yvonia (MDCR)
Cc: Arrojo, Jose (COE); Moss, Dennis C. (DIST9); Victoria Goss; Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE); Turay, Radia (COE); Anderson, Machell (COE); Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: INQ 19-115, Yvonia Payne, Correctional Corporal, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (Mom and Pop Grant- Limitation on transacting Business with the County)
Attachments: INQ 19-115 Payne.pdf; Payne , Ivonia applic..pdf; Savvy Sexy Sheek Fashion LLC - Sunbiz.pdf

Dear Officer Payne:

Thank-you for contacting the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, and seeking our guidance in connection with your applying for a County Mom and Pop Grant. Attached please find our opinion regarding this matter and supporting documentation.

Cordially,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
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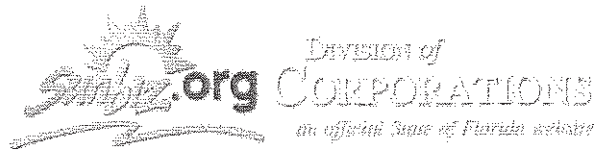
Locate

Clear

First	Last	Position	Department	Email Address	Phone
YVONIA	PAYNE	CORRECTIONAL CORPORAL	39	Yvonia.Payne@miamidade.gov	(786) 263-5112

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Detail by Officer/Registered Agent Name

Florida Limited Liability Company
SAVVY SEXY SHEEK FASHION LLC

Filing Information

Document Number L17000026456
FEI/EIN Number N/A
Date Filed 02/02/2017
State FL
Status ACTIVE

Principal Address

22137 South Dixie Highway
MIAMI, FL 33170

Changed: 02/24/2019

Mailing Address

PO BOX 970968
MIAMI, FL 33197

Registered Agent Name & Address

PAYNE, YVONIA
17300 SW 140 COURT
MIAMI, FL 33177

Authorized Person(s) Detail

Name & Address

Title CEO

PAYNE, YVONIA
17300 SW 140 COURT
MIAMI, FL 33177

Title Manager, Authorized Representative

Gonzalez, Thomas
17300 SW 140 COURT
MIAMI, FL 33177

Annual Reports

Report Year	Filed Date