
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 1:56 PM
To: 'Gerri Lazzarre'
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Mom & Pop Grant Ethics Opinion INQ 14-92
Attachments: INQ 14-92 Lazzarre.bmp

Dear Ms. Lazzarre:

Attached is the Mom and Pop Grant Ethics Opinion. Please note that it indicates that your board service with the Miami-Dade Black Affairs Advisory Board (BAAB) does not prohibit you from accepting a Mom & Pop Grant as long as BAAB has no oversight over the award or administration of Mom & Pop Grants.. I will send you the original letter via regular mail.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

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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From: Gerri Lazzarre [mailto:GLazzarre@TrimergeCPA.com]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 12:35 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: RE: COE Opinion

Thank you Gilma, please see attached.



From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) [<mailto:GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 4:08 PM
To: Gerri Lazarre
Subject: RE: COE Opinion

You need to Contact NANA and they have to give you the [Mom & Pop Request for Oinion from Commission on Ethics, Acquiring Financial Interest Form.](#) It has to be filled out for the correct district. NANA can help you with that. Just specify on the form that you are a board member and put in the information for your board and your business. The form you sent is for the procurement department, not NANA.

I hope this helps-

From: Gerri Lazarre [<mailto:GLazarre@TrimergeCPA.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: RE: COE Opinion

The document I attached was the request for the Opinion regarding the Mom and Pop grant, yes.



From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) [<mailto:GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 3:51 PM
To: Gerri Lazarre
Subject: RE: COE Opinion

Ms. Lazarre,

I left a message on your cell phone regarding the application for the Mom and Pop grant. Did you receive it? I also need to know whether the application you attached to this email is for a Mom and Pop Grant or for something else.

Best regards,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney



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From: Gerri Lazzarre [<mailto:GLazarre@TrimergeCPA.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 12:28 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: RE: COE Opinion

Gilma, since you are processing the request below for GLOMIAMI, Inc. to be a vendor, I am also including another one that is being requested.

If it is possible to do both at the same time since it is for the same person, I would appreciate.

I am pursuing the Miami-Dade Mom and Pop grant in District 2 for TriMerge Consulting Group, PA and I am being asked to obtain an opinion on if there are any conflicts with this by your division, please see attached. As a Miami Dade small business, we met the qualifications to apply for the grant however this opinion is being requested because I am on the Miami Dade Black Affairs Advisory board.

Thanks in advance for your time and attention.

Best regards,

Gerri



From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) [<mailto:GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 8:52 AM
To: Gerri Lazzarre
Subject: RE: COE Opinion

Ms. Lazzarre,

I am in receipt of you application and will process it as soon as I am able. We have a large number of requests for opinion at the moment so it might take a bit of time. I will contact you if I have any questions.

Best regards,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney



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From: Gerri Lazzarre [<mailto:GLazarre@TrimergeCPA.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2014 7:55 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: RE: COE Opinion

Ms. Diaz-Greco, I have another application, I will be forwarding to your office again.

Thanks in advance for your time and attention.

Best regards,

Gerri



From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) [<mailto:GDIAZGR@miamidade.gov>]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:40 PM
To: Gerri Lazzarre
Subject: RE: COE Opinion

Ms. Lazzarre,

Thank you for your email. As soon as I receive the application form from you, I will begin the review process. A letter will follow shortly after that.

It was a pleasure speaking with you today.

Best regards,

Gilma (Mimi) Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

19 W. Flagler Street, Suite 820

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From: Gerri Lazarre [<mailto:GLazarre@TrimergeCPA.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 1:31 PM

To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)

Subject: COE Opinion

Good afternoon Gilma, and thank you for answering my questions.

As mentioned, I am a board member on a county board, which is the Black Affairs' Advisory Board which is under the Office of the Chair.

This board was created to be more of an advocacy advisory type of board for the black world community in Miami Dade County.

I have been on the board for approximately 6 or 7 years and recently appointed as the vice chair of the board as of February 4, 2014.

In accordance with the requirements of the registered vendor application with Miami Dade county Ordinance 2-11.1 I am requesting an opinion from the COE on whether or not there is a conflict of interest.

Please note that this board does not distribute forms to any departments or agencies, we do provide educational scholarships during our annual Pillars Award ceremony to college students however it is the Black Heritage Planning Committee that makes the decisions on who will be selected.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me, I faxed over the form and believe that a revision should be made to account for board members who are seeking to be vendors with the county. In addition, I have provided a link to the website if you want to get further information or details.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/advocacy/black-affairs-home.asp>

Best regards,

Geraldine Lazarre



Gerri Lazarre, CPA, MsTax

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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

MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GENERAL COUNSEL
Michael P. Murawski
ADVOCATE
Miriam S. Ramos
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

Via First Class Mail
and email at GLazarre@TriMergeCPA.com

April 11, 2014

Geraldine Lazarre
TriMerge Consulting Group, P.A.
39 NW 166 Street, Suite # 1
Miami, FL 33169

Re: INQ 14-92, Mom & Pop Grant

Dear Ms. Lazarre:

You asked if the County Ethics Code would prevent your privately owned company, TriMerge Consulting Group, P.A., from accepting a Mom & Pop Grant funded through Commissioner Jean Monestime's District 2 Office. You serve as the Chair of the Miami-Dade Black Affairs Advisory Board (BAAB).

Briefly, your company may **accept a grant** as long as BAAB is not involved in any way in processing or administering the grant. 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 very expansively when applied to County employees. This means that you may not contact anyone within the County (or anyone working on behalf of the County, including Hialeah Dade Development) in an attempt to influence his/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 that reads "Gilma Diaz-Greco".

Gilma Diaz-Greco
Staff Attorney

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

Request for Opinion from Commission on Ethics

Acquiring Financial Interest

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

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

39 NW 166 Street, Suite #1, Miami, FL 33169,
(Business Address, City, State, Zip)

(305) 940-5344
(Phone #)

glazarre@TriMerbeCPA.com
(Email)

Include a short description of the type of business operating Certified Public Accountant
and consulting company also providing IT CONSULTING
and TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Are you currently a Miami Dade County Board Member? Yes: No:

If yes, what Committee? MIAMI DADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

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.

Name and address of your County Commissioner

Commissioner Jean Monestime - District 2
STEPHEN P. CLACK, III NW 1 STREET, STE #220, MIAMI, FL 33128