

April 30, 2024

Board of Commissioners,

In 2020, Kent County was awarded funds via the federal CARES Act and developed a business assistance program called the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund. As a small business owner, I applied for and was awarded two grants from the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund totaling \$15,000. Following a 2022 inquiry prompted by an individual, Kent County initiated a review of the \$5,000 grant awarded to my business, Game Plan Lifestyle Planner. I was subsequently contacted by the County in January 2023 regarding the inquiry and their review.

I did not immediately see or respond to Kent County's initial email as I was a newly elected state representative, and their email was overlooked in the volume of correspondence I was receiving at the time. I did engage with Kent County and provided them with an amended tax return allowing them to complete their review of the grant funds awarded in 2020. As such, the County closed their inquiry in May of 2023, and I understood the matter to be fully resolved.

After I was again contacted by Kent County earlier this month based on repeated inquiries by the same individual who initiated the first review. At this time I did another review of my documentation and discovered that although I believed and stated that the amended 2019 return had been filed, it was not. I relied on a trusted professional to assist in amending and filing my return and unfortunately, that did not happen. As a result, I am voluntarily returning the \$5,000 grant awarded to Game Plan Lifestyle Planner through the Kent County Small Business Recovery Fund in the next 24 hours so that this issue can be put to rest. While it was not my error that resulted in the return not being filed, I take responsibility for this failure and believe returning the funds is the right thing to do, under the circumstances.

Kristian Grant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristian Grant", written in a cursive style.