

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF NORTH MIAMI
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF EMERGENCY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The City of North Miami is a recipient of CDBG-CV funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") and Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) funding from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation through the State, under the CARES Act and the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

The City has received application from Ferdinand St-Hilaire, an income eligible applicant and an employee at the City, working in the capacity of Body Worn Camera Administrator for the North Miami Police Department to participate in the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program. The Federal Government's Code of Federal Regulations, 24 CFR Section 92.356(c) states that:

"(b) Conflicts Prohibited: The general rule is that no person described in paragraph (c) of this section who exercise or have exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to the CDBG activities assisted under this part, or who are in a position to participate in a decision making process or gain inside information with regard to such activities, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from a CDBG-assisted activity or have a financial interest in any contract, or agreement with respect to a CDBG-assisted activity either for themselves or those with whom they have business or immediate family ties, during their tenure or one year thereafter..."

"(c) Persons Covered: The conflict of interest provisions of paragraph (b) of this section apply to any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected official or appointed official of the participating jurisdiction, State recipient, or sub-recipients which are receiving HOME funds."

Exception: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may grant an exception to these provisions and allow Mr. Ferdinand St-Hilaire to receive assistance from the Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program, providing the City publicly discloses the nature of the potential conflict in addition to retrieving an opinion from the City Attorney that the interest(s) for which we are seeking the exception is not in violation of State or Local law.

The potential conflict of interest in this case arises from the fact that Mr. Ferdinand St-Hilaire is an employee of the City of North Miami Police Department, and the City is a recipient of CDBG-CV funding from HUD.

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed all documentation for this application and issued a legal opinion regarding the potential conflict(s) of interest. In their opinion, the application of Mr. Ferdinand St-Hilaire does not violate State or local law or any City administrative policies.

Public Comment: Residents are encouraged to review the complete opinion and provide written comments. Copies of the opinion are available for review at the Housing & Social Services Satellite office located at 13753 NW 7th Avenue, North Miami Florida 33168 during regular business hours, Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the 10-day period to commence on March 14, 2022 and will end on March 23, 2022. Comments may be submitted to the Housing & Social Services Department by mail, in person, or by e-mail to housing@northmiamifl.gov.

City of North Miami
Vanessa Joseph, Esq.
City Clerk