



John A. Carey
Inspector General

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
PALM BEACH COUNTY



Inspector General
Accredited

“Enhancing Public Trust in Government”

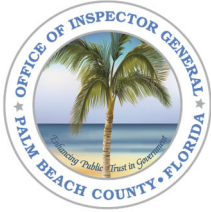
**Redacted Per §119.071 (5)(b) and (5)(f)1,
F.S., and 15 U.S.C. § 9058a(4)(A)**

Investigative Report

2021-0012

False Representations on CARES Act Boynton Beach Rental Assistance Applications

September 19, 2022



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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL PALM BEACH COUNTY

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT 2021-0012

DATE ISSUED: September 19, 2022



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SUMMARY

WHAT WE DID

On April 29, 2021, the Palm Beach County Community Services Department (Community Services) referred a matter concerning rental assistance applications numbers 17852 and 72936 to the County Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act- Coronavirus Relief Fund Rental, Utilities, and Food Assistance Program and Emergency Rental Assistance Program to the Palm Beach County (County) Office of Inspector General (OIG) for review. After [REDACTED] (hereafter 'Applicant') submitted her second application (No. 72936), Community Services noted inconsistent and unverifiable information about her employer in the documentation she submitted with her two applications. Consequently, the County denied Applicant's second application (No. 72936). Applicant's landlord, Skye at Boynton Beach, LLC, however, had already received \$9,440.00 as result of Applicant's submission for application No. 17852.¹

Based upon our initial review of Applicant's applications, accompanying documents,

and program guidelines, the OIG initiated an investigation of the following allegation:

Allegation (1):

Applicant provided false information in her multiple rental assistance applications, one of which resulted in improper grant funding from a County program funded by the CARES Act.

Applicant submitted two additional rental assistance applications (Nos. 75745 and 78112) to the County after the County referred the matter to the OIG.² During our investigation, our office reviewed all of Applicant's rental assistance applications and the supporting documentation, the program guidelines and eligibility requirements, Applicant's rental records, and publicly available records relating to Applicant's representations. We also interviewed Applicant's landlord, an accountant Applicant hired, and County personnel.

WHAT WE FOUND

Allegation (1) is supported. We found that Applicant submitted fabricated

¹ The County issued Check No. 3209988 dated November 2, 2020, to Skye at Boynton Beach, LLC for an amount totaling \$11,915.02. The check amount included \$9,440.00 for rental assistance relating to application #17852 and \$2,475.02 for a different applicant.

² Applicant also submitted a separate application No. 47583, for a total of \$1,600 food and utility assistance on November 9, 2020, for which she was approved.

documents to the County in support of her rental assistance applications.

As a result of Applicant's fraudulent submission, the County issued Skye at Boynton Beach, LLC a \$9,440.00 payment on November 2, 2020. The inappropriate grant resulted in **Identified Costs³ of \$9,440.00.**

We found sufficient information to warrant referring our findings to the Boynton Beach Police Department (with copy to the State Attorney's Office) for a determination of whether the facts arise to a criminal act under section 817.03, Florida Statutes.

We also found sufficient information to warrant referral of our findings to the United States Attorney's Office for a determination of whether they constitute a violation of Title 18, Chapter 47, section 1001, United States Criminal Code.

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

We recommend that the County seek reimbursement of \$9,440 in funds issued as a result of Applicant's inaccurate submissions.

³ Identified costs are costs that have been identified as dollars that have the potential of being returned to the entity to offset the taxpayers' burden.

BACKGROUND

The CARES Act

On March 1, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis directed the State Health Officer to issue a public health emergency in the State of Florida due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 13, 2020, then-Palm Beach County Mayor Dave Kerner declared a state of emergency in the County due to COVID-19.



On March 27, 2020, the President of the United States signed the CARES Act into law. The CARES Act allocated \$2.2 trillion in economic relief to individuals, businesses, and governments affected by COVID-19. State governments were allocated a total of \$139 billion based on their populations (as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2019), with no state receiving less than \$1.25 billion. Florida received a total of \$8.328 billion, with \$261,174,832 of that total provided to Palm Beach County.

On May 15, 2020, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners dedicated \$40 million of the approximately \$261 million allocated to it for “Emergency Mortgage, Rental and Utility Assistance.” Community Services administrated the Rental Assistance portion of this funding.

CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund Rental, Utilities, and Food Assistance Program Guidelines

The CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund Rental, Utilities, and Food Assistance Program was designed to utilize CARES Act funds to provide one-time rental and utility assistance to eligible County residents who experienced loss of income, reduction in hours, or unemployment as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Community Services website explained that in order to be eligible for the program, the applicant must reside within the corporate limits of Palm Beach County and have documentable information to evidence loss of income, reduction in hours, or unemployment because of the COVID-19 pandemic, that contributed to missed rental payments and/or utility payments. Eligibility guidelines on the website also listed the income and asset requirements to qualify for the program. Assistance was provided for past due rent and/or utilities due from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

On March 9, 2021, under the authority of the U.S. Department of Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program 1 (as established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021), the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved ERA-1 funding to assist Palm Beach County residents affected by COVID-19 with rental and utility assistance. On

August 17, 2021, the BCC approved ERA-2 (as established by section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) funding for the same purpose.

Eligible Palm Beach County households are renter households in which one or more individual(s) meets all of the following criteria:

- For ERA-1, qualifies for unemployment or experienced a reduction of household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardships **due to** COVID-19 (either directly or indirectly), or for ERA-2, qualifies for unemployment or experienced other financial hardships **during or due to** (either directly or indirectly) COVID-19;
- Demonstrates a risk of homelessness or housing instability; and
- Has a household income at or below 80% of the area median.

Rental Assistance Applications

The County accepted applications electronically on the Community Services Online System for Community Access to Resources and Social Services (OSCARSS). OSCARSS required applicants to upload certain supporting documentation, including identification, a rental lease agreement, and a Balance Statement from the landlord. The Balance Statement was to be completed by the applicant's landlord or property manager, and was to reflect the amount of rent owed by the applicant.



The form of the application differed slightly throughout the program, but each included eligibility questions and acknowledgements. Applicants were required to affirm certain statements by digitally checking a box next to each one.

The Acknowledgment section for applications No. 17852, 75745, 72936, and 78112 included the following:

- I further certify that I have read, the above information and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information is accurate and has been properly recorded. Additionally, I understand that I am responsible for the accuracy of the information provided and that said information will be used as a basis for determining my eligibility for services. **I also understand that any falsification or misrepresentation of this information is just cause for denial of services and prosecution for fraud.** [Emphasis added]

The final page of the application required the applicant's printed name and submission date.

Community Services assigned applications it received to a Community Services reviewer. The reviewer checked whether the applicant submitted all required information and that there were no discrepancies within the documents. If information was missing, or if information in submitted documents was inconsistent, the reviewer would return the application to the applicant, noting what was missing or inconsistent. If the applicant met the eligibility guidelines and submitted required documentation, and the applicant's landlord had registered or was in the process of registering with the County as a vendor, the reviewer would send the application to a supervisor for review.

Then, applications were sent to Community Services fiscal personnel for review. Upon the approval of an application for rental assistance, the County sent requests for payment to the County Clerk and Comptroller's Office.

The Rental Address

██████████ (hereafter, 'Rental Address') is the apartment community where Applicant resided for the period relevant to this investigation. Rental Address is located at ██████████ ██████████ Boynton Beach, Florida, 33435. From May 2015 through May 2021, Skye at Boynton Beach, LLC owned the Rental Address and in June 2021, the property was sold to Avanti Residential – Rental Address TIC I, LLC; Avanti Residential – Rental Address TIC II, LLC; and Avanti Residential – Rental Address TIC III.

Applicant's Employment Identifiers Summary Table

The OIG reviewed information received by the County and the OIG in support of Applicant's applications for rental assistance and identified numerous discrepancies within information relating to her employer. The OIG compiled the demonstrative chart below, which shows that the information contained varying names and addresses for her employer, some which conflicted, did not exist, or could not be verified. For example, Applicant submitted paystubs with her rental assistance applications. Some of her paystubs listed the non-existent city of Duluth, **FL** 30057 as her employer's city, state, and zip code instead of Duluth, **GA** 30057, as stated on the other check stubs. Additionally, Applicant attached a paystub dated February 14, 2020, to her first rental application, which differed from the February 14, 2020 paystub she attached to her second and third rental applications.

Applicant submitted two Notices of Temporary Layoff allegedly from two different representatives of her employer—one of which contained a typo in the company name and was dated thirteen months after the layoff noticed in the document. Additionally, the toll-free number 855-865-9900 and a similar toll-free number with two numbers juxtaposed 855-685-9900 were used in different documents as a phone number or a fax number. No one would answer at either number.

Applicant's Applications for Rental Assistance						
Date Initially Submitted	Source	Document Type	Date on Doc	Employer Name	Employer Address/ Contact Information	Employer Representative
8/24/2020	Applicant 1st Rental Assistance application No. 17852	Paystub	2/14/2020	BIOMEDICAL	2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL BLVD DULUTH, GA 30057	
8/24/2020	Applicant 1st Rental Assistance application No. 17852	Paystub	2/28/2020	BIOMEDICAL	2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL BLVD DULUTH, GA 30057	
8/24/2020	Applicant 1st Rental Assistance application No. 17852	Paystub	3/13/2020	BIOMEDICAL	2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL BLVD DULUTH, GA 30057	
4/2/2020	Applicant 2nd Rental Assistance application No. 72936	Paystub	2/14/2020	BIOMEDICAL	2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL BLVD DULUTH, FL 30057	
4/2/2021	Applicant 2nd Rental Assistance application No. 72936	Paystub	3/13/2020	BIOMEDICAL	2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL BLVD DULUTH, GA 30057	
4/2/2021	Applicant 2nd Rental Assistance application No. 72936	Temporary Layoff Notice	4/7/2021	BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY CORPORATION	3340 PEACHTREE NORTH ROAD ATLANTA, GA 30326 SUITE 1800 Phone: 855-685-9900	Hailey Hill, Department Supervisor
5/8/2021	Applicant 3rd Rental Assistance application No. 75745	Paystub	1/17/2020	BIOMEDICAL	2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL BLVD DULUTH, FL 30057	
5/8/2021	Applicant 3rd Rental Assistance application No. 75745	Paystub	2/14/2020	BIOMEDICAL	2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL BLVD DULUTH, FL 30057	
5/8/2020	Applicant 3rd Rental Assistance application No. 75745	Paystub	3/13/2020	BIOMEDICAL	2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL BLVD DULUTH, GA 30057	
5/8/2021	Applicant 3rd Rental Assistance application No. 75745	Temporary layoff notice	3/7/2020	BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY CORPORATION	3340 PEACHTREE NORTH ROAD ATLANTA, GA 30326 SUITE 1800 Fax: 855-865-9900	Laura Taylor HR Department
5/8/2021	Applicant 3rd Rental Assistance application No. 75745	2020 IRS form W-2		BIOMEDICAL	3340 PEACHTREE NORTH RD STE 1800 ATLANTA GA, 30326	
6/10/2021	Applicant 4th Rental Assistance application No. 78112	2020 IRS Form W-2		BIOMEDICAL	3340 PEACHTREE NORTH RD STE 1800 ATLANTA GA, 30326	

ALLEGATIONS AND FINDINGS**Allegation (1):**

Applicant provided false information in multiple rental assistance applications, one of which resulted in improper grant funding from a County program funded by the CARES Act.

Governing Directives:

Palm Beach County CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund Rental, Utilities, and Food Assistance Program application and program guidelines; Palm Beach County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA-1 and ERA-2) application and program guidelines.

Finding:

The information obtained **supports** the allegation.

Applicant's First Rental Assistance Application


County records show Applicant initially submitted rental assistance application number 17852 on August 24, 2020. On September 2, 2020, Community Services returned the application for failure to provide requested documents. Applicant resubmitted the application on October 27, 2020, and it was returned to her on that same date, again for failure to provide requested documents. Applicant resubmitted the application on October 28, 2020. The supporting documents Applicant submitted with this application included three paystubs from "Biomedical" and a "Palm Beach County Community Services Department Self Attestation Form." The Self Attestation Form states it is only needed for applicants with reduction/loss of income due to COVID-19, and is to be used as a last resort where verifiable documentation cannot be produced.

In the Self Attestation Form, Applicant attested that she lost her job due to COVID-19, and in the Declaration of Income Loss Due to COVID-19 section of the form, she wrote:

The first thing that began to occur is that I suffered from wage deductions some time between January and February of 2020. During the last week there was a verbal announcement that the company would be closing temporarily due to COVID19. My last pay stubs was (sic) in March of 2020. I have not heard anything from the company in reference to returning to work. My last day at work was 3/7/2020.⁴

⁴ Though the application asks about a reduction in hours after March 15, 2020, and Applicant states her last day of work was March 7, 2020, Community Services reviewers nevertheless approved her application.

Palm Beach County Community Services Department Self-Attestation Form



This form is only for applicants with reduction/loss of income due to COVID-19. This form will be used as a last resort, in the event where verifiable documentation cannot be produced.

Who Can Use this Document:

1. Applicants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, who are unable to provide verifiable evidence of their COVID-19 related job or income losses
 2. Applicants who are self-employed or participate in the non-traditional economy, and who may not have traditional methods of documentation of their income showing their COVID-19 related loss of income.
 Traditional methods of documentation include paycheck stubs, bank account comparisons illustrating a decrease in income and letters from an employer regarding decrease in hours or a layoff. If an applicant does not have traditional methods of documentation, they may submit this form in the place of providing the above mentioned objectively verifiable documentation.

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State ZIP: BOYNTON BEACH Florida 33435

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Application Number: 17852

Original Income Source

Please explain where you worked prior to COVID-19 Crisis.

Employer: Biomedical

Self-Employed: N/a

Other: N/a

Job/Income Loss

Please check all that apply:

Job Loss

Loss of Job Hours

Loss of Income (Partial)

Loss of Income (Complete)

Declaration of Income Loss Due to COVID-19

Please explain the situation that prompted the loss of income due to COVID-19.

The first thing that began to occur is that I suffered from wage deductions some time between January and February of 2020. During the last week there was a verbal announcement that the company would be closing temporarily due to COVID19. My last pay stubs was in March of 2020. I have not heard anything from the company in reference to returning to work. My last day at work was 3/7/2020.

I attest that the answers on this form are true and reflect my current finances and status regarding COVID-19. I understand that a material misstatement fraudulently or negligently made in this form or any other statement made by me (us) in connection with an application for CARES ACT Treasury Funding may constitute a federal violation punishable by a fine and/or denial of my (our) application for assistance, and/or penalties including disqualification from future Palm Beach County assistance benefits, or, if funds have been released prior to discovery of the false statement, immediate recalling of the assistance, which may be in addition to any criminal penalty imposed by law. I authorize the County to obtain records of information pertaining to my financial or employment status from any source in order to verify the information provided by me.

Applicant Signature

10/28/2020
Date

Applicant submitted paystubs that identified her employer as Biomedical with an address of 2705 Peachtree Industrial, Duluth, GA 30057. The paystubs represented three pay periods from January 26, 2020 through March 7, 2020. The third paystub was dated March 13, 2020.

- Paystub Check Date 2/14/2020:

BIOMEDICAL 2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL DULUTH, GA 30057				[REDACTED] BOYTON BEACH, FL 33435		SSN [REDACTED]	Period Beginning 1/26/2020 Period Ending 2/8/2020 Check Date 2/14/2020 Check No 762561
				Gross Pay \$2,611.76 Net Pay \$2,314.54 Filing Status H8			
Earnings	Hours/Rate	Amount	YTD Amt	Taxes/Deductions	Amount	YTD Amt	
Regular hourly pay	80.00/28.85	\$2,308.00	\$6,924.00	Fed Income Tax	\$97.42	\$298.48	
Overtime hourly pay	7.02/43.27	\$303.76	\$963.20	Social Security Tax	\$161.93	\$489.01	
Gross Pay		\$2,611.76	\$7,887.20	Medicare Tax	\$37.87	\$114.36	
				State Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	
				Local Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	
				Net Pay	\$2,314.54	\$6,985.35	

- Paystub Check Date 2/28/2020

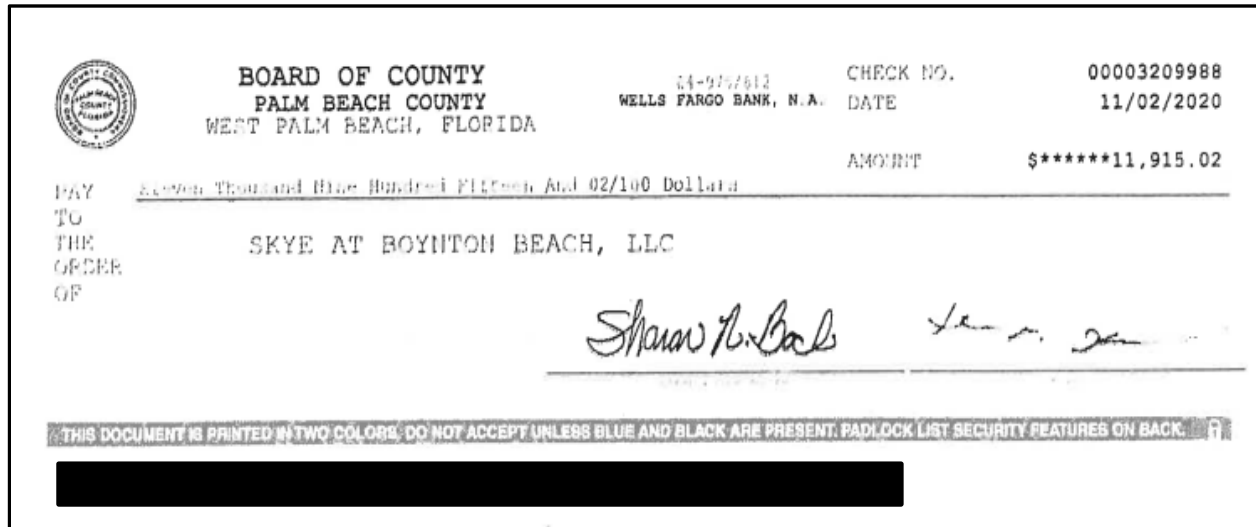
BIOMEDICAL 2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL DULUTH, GA 30057				[REDACTED] BOYTON BEACH, FL 33435		SSN [REDACTED]	Period Beginning 2/9/2020 Period Ending 2/22/2020 Check Date 2/28/2020 Check No 762877
				Gross Pay \$2,605.26 Net Pay \$2,309.31 Filing Status H8			
Earnings	Hours/Rate	Amount	YTD Amt	Taxes/Deductions	Amount	YTD Amt	
Regular hourly pay	80.00/28.85	\$2,308.00	\$9,232.00	Fed Income Tax	\$96.64	\$395.12	
Overtime hourly pay	6.87/43.27	\$297.26	\$1,260.46	Social Security Tax	\$161.53	\$650.54	
Gross Pay		\$2,605.26	\$10,492.46	Medicare Tax	\$37.78	\$152.14	
				State Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	
				Local Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	
				Net Pay	\$2,309.31	\$9,294.66	

- Paystub 3, Check Date 3/13/2020

BIOMEDICAL 2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL DULUTH, GA 30057				[REDACTED] BOYTON BEACH, FL 33435		SSN [REDACTED]	Period Beginning 2/23/2020 Period Ending 3/7/2020 Check Date 3/13/2020 Check No 763297
				Gross Pay \$923.20 Net Pay \$852.57 Filing Status H8			
Earnings	Hours/Rate	Amount	YTD Amt	Taxes/Deductions	Amount	YTD Amt	
Regular hourly pay	32.00/28.85	\$923.20	\$10,155.20	Fed Income Tax	\$0.00	\$395.12	
Overtime hourly pay	0.00/43.27	\$0.00	\$1,260.46	Social Security Tax	\$57.24	\$707.78	
Gross Pay		\$923.20	\$11,415.66	Medicare Tax	\$13.39	\$165.53	
				State Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	
				Local Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	
				Net Pay	\$852.57	\$10,147.23	

Applicant certified that these paystubs and all other documents she provided were accurate when she electronically signed and submitted her application.

A County supervisor processed the application, and on November 2, 2020, the County Clerk and Comptroller issued a rental assistance payment of \$9,440¹ for past due rent to Applicant’s landlord, Skye at Boynton Beach, LLC, for the period April 2020 to August 2020.



Applicant’s Second Rental Assistance Application

County records show Applicant initially submitted rental assistance application number 72936 on April 2, 2021. She submitted the same March 13, 2020 paystub she submitted with application No. 17852, and a paystub dated February 14, 2020 that differed from the paystub dated February 14, 2020 that she submitted with the first application. Specifically, the two pay stubs dated February 14, 2020, differed in net pay, year to date pay, and the check number. Additionally, the paystub attached to the second rental application listed the employer’s address as “2705 Peachtree Industrial, Duluth, FL” instead of “2705 Peachtree Industrial, Duluth, GA.”

- Paystub Check Date February 14, 2020- Attached to Rental Assistance Application 17852

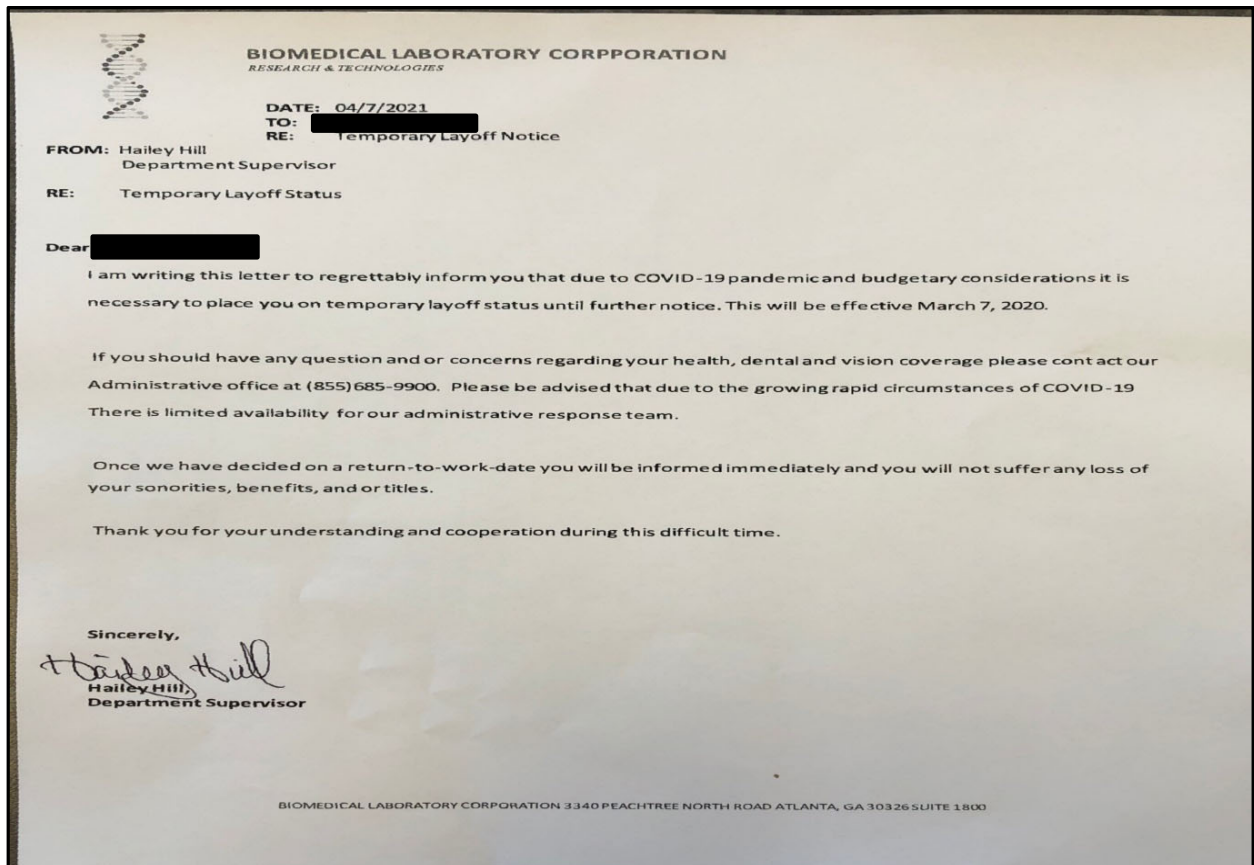
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BIOMEDICAL 2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL DULUTH, FL 30057		[REDACTED] BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435		Period Beginning 1/26/2020 Period Ending 2/8/2020 Check Date 2/14/2020 Check No 3886927		
		Gross Pay \$2,664.54 Net Pay \$2,357.72 Filing Status TB				
Earnings	Hours/Rate	Amount	YTD Amt	Taxes/Deductions	Amount	YTD Amt
Regular hourly pay	80.00/\$28.85	\$2,308.00	\$8,794.35	Fed Income Tax	\$102.98	\$304.25
Overtime hourly pay	8.24/\$43.27	\$356.54	\$901.30	Social Security Tax	\$165.20	\$601.13
Gross Pay		\$2,664.54	\$9,695.65	Medicare Tax	\$38.64	\$140.59
				State Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Local Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Net Pay	\$2,357.72	\$8,649.68

She also submitted a “Palm Beach County Community Services Department Self Attestation Form.”

In response to a Community Services request for additional documentation, she later submitted a Temporary Layoff Letter dated April 7, 2021, allegedly from Biomedical Laboratory Corporation [sic], signed by a Biomedical Department Supervisor named Hailey Hill. The letter advised Applicant that her notice of layoff “will be effective March 7, 2020” (more than a year prior to the date of the letter). The employer’s company name and address on the paystubs and Temporary Layoff Letter differed.



In the application, she requested \$23,271.00 in rental assistance for September 2020 through July 2021.

On April 5, 2021, Community Services returned the application to Applicant, stating that she needed to submit the following documents:

Current lease Proof of COVID Direct and/or Indirect Crisis Direct Impact: At least two paystubs, one paystub before COVID-19 and one current after Jan. 1, 2021(most recent) paystub during COVID-19 showing reduced hours OR At least two bank statements with transaction history that shows your reduced income (deposits) after Jan. 1, 2021 OR Lost employment, a letter from employer. Note: letter or email show that employment loss continues to affect the household after Jan. 1, 2021 OR Evidence for Loss of Income if Self-Employed and loss of income continues after Jan. 1, 2021 OR Qualified for unemployment — Unemployment award letter/statement from Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) with unemployment amount and date range during COVID-19, after March 2020.

Applicant certified that the documents she provided were accurate with her initial April 2, 2021 submission, and when she electronically signed and resubmitted application number 72936 on April 29, 2021. On April 29, 2021, Applicant resubmitted application number 72936, along with the following document:

<p>RESPONSE</p> <p>4/29/2021</p> <p>1.) For my own personal reasons I did not file for taxes in 2020.</p> <p>2.) I did not apply for unemployment due to the fact that I began working for Postmates and Doordash therefore I was not eligible for unemployment.</p> <p>3.) Former employer information please refer to job lay off letter already previously uploaded.</p> <p>4.) I do have a reseller's license that I have never used. This has nothing to due with my income due the fact this business has not yet been established.</p> <p>5.) Due a conflict of interest, complications, potential harassment's, inaccurate false informative information being communicated within your Governmental organization, and to alleviate any further complications and or DELAYS of my application As of today 4/29/2021 per renewal of annual report I have been removed from this LLC of which no income has been earned due to the fact this business is also not yet been established. This LLC has not made any profit or income in the year 2020 or 2021. I do not have any further affiliation with [REDACTED]. However I have still provided you with the profit and loss form just as you asked.</p> <p>6.) Every since the day I was laid off I have only received income from Postmates and Doordash in the Months of February and March of 2021.</p> <p>7.) I have also included the proper bank statements of where my Postmates and Doordash earnings were being transferred for the months of February and March of 2021 to further PROVE MY COVID of which I did inform Jodi on April 8th or 9th of 2021 and supervisor Mathew John at which time both individuals communicated to me that would NOT be accepted to prove my COVID of which they both then instructed me to check the Self Attestation box in order for my application to be resubmitted as it was in return status at that time.</p> <p>8.) Since the beginning of this application I have reported thru the portal and verbally all income. I did not leave out anything relevant to this application process because both business endeavors HAVE NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED NOR RECEIVED OR EARNED ANY PROFIT OR INCOME NO WHERE ON PLANT EARTH IN THE YEARS 2020 or 2021. Someone is reporting false information to you or these are retaliatory actions because I have reached out to Mr. James E. Green, Verdenia Baker, Mayor Kemer's office County Commissioner, as well as other higher authorities. Also retaliatory actions due to the fact that I did express and communicate that I am doing a formal written complaint pertaining this whole process of which Mathew John did call me and asked me directly what do I plan to include in my report of formal written complaint at which time I indicated to him that he was totally out of line to ask me that, I then further communicated to him that, that information will be made known and available at the time my formal written complaint would be presented. RETALIATORY!!!</p>
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Community Services personnel noted issues in the employment documents Applicant submitted with application number 72936. Community Services personnel determined that the address on the Temporary Layoff Letter, 3340 Peachtree Northeast Rd., Atlanta, GA 30326, was the address of a large office building and “Biomedical Lab” was not located in the building. In addition, they noted that the actual zip code for the 2705 Peachtree Industrial, Duluth, GA 30057 address printed on the March 13, 2020 paystub was 30097, not 30057. Additionally, they noted that the Duluth, GA address was a “neighborhood clubhouse.”

On May 7, 2021, Community Services notified Applicant of the justification for denial of her application:

COVID-19 Crisis eligibility not met

Other Reason: Lack of documentation to demonstrate Current Covid Crisis. Requested client to provide DEO claim for unemployment, did not receive it. Client did not provide 2020 income tax return or W2 documentation to demonstrate income eligibility. The client provided a document dated April 2021 from the employer. The client should obtain w2 from the employer.

Applicant’s Third Rental Assistance Application

After Community Services submitted its complaint to the OIG and denied Applicant’s second rental assistance application, Applicant electronically signed and submitted rental assistance application number 75745 on May 8, 2021. Applicant requested rental assistance of \$23,000.00 for September 2020 through August 2021, which covered the period requested in her second application plus the addition of August 2021. Applicant attached the March 13, 2020 paystub she had attached to her first two rental assistance application.

Applicant also attached the February 14, 2020 paystub listing the employer’s address as Duluth, FL that she attached to the second application and added a January 17, 2020 paystub, which also listed the employer’s address as 2705 Peachtree Industrial, Duluth, FL 30057.

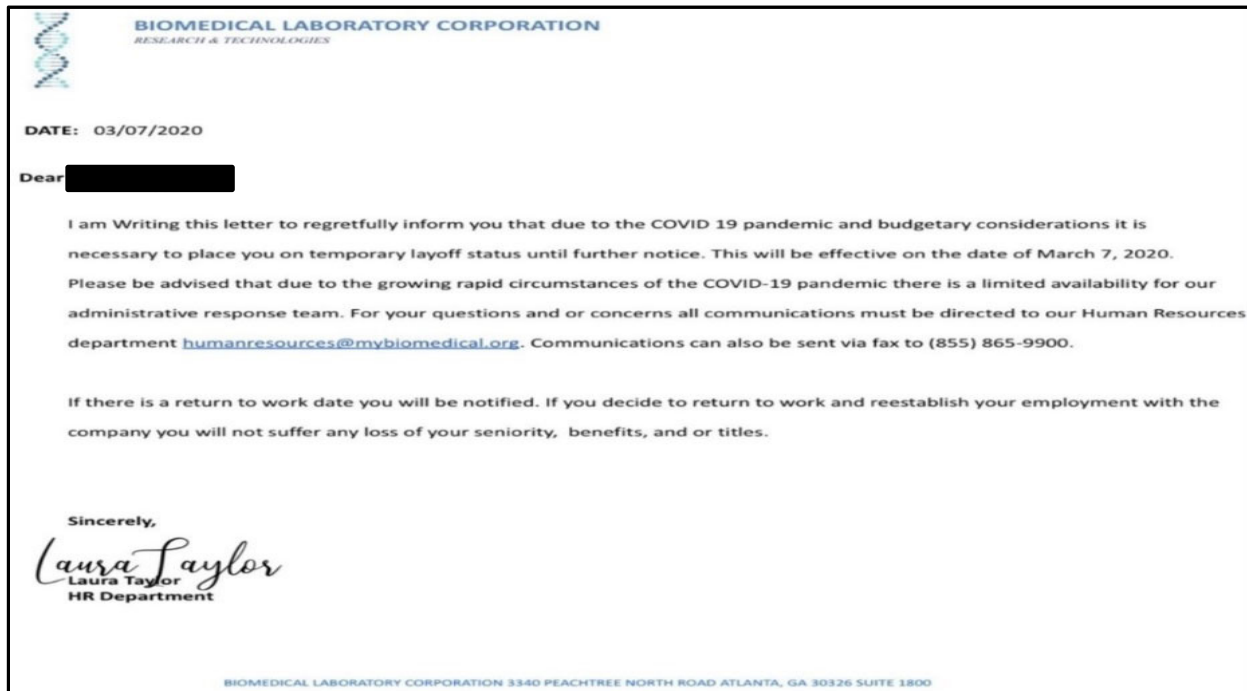
BIOMEDICAL 2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL DULUTH, FL 30057				[REDACTED]		SSN	[REDACTED]	Period Beginning	12/29/2019
BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435				Gross Pay	\$2,605.26	Period Ending	1/11/2020		
				Net Pay	\$2,310.08	Check Date	1/17/2020		
				Filing Status	H8	Check No	3885553		
Earnings				Taxes/Deductions		Amount	YTD Amt		
Regular hourly pay	80.00/\$28.85	\$2,308.00	\$4,178.35	Fed Income Tax	\$95.87	\$111.37			
Overtime hourly pay	6.87/\$43.27	\$297.26	\$297.26	Social Security Tax	\$161.53	\$277.49			
Gross Pay		\$2,605.26	\$4,475.61	Medicare Tax	\$37.78	\$64.90			
				State Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00			
				Local Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00			
				Net Pay	\$2,310.08	\$4,021.85			

Applicant also attached a 2020 Form W2 showing her employer as “Biomedical” with an address of 3340 Peachtree North Rd. Ste 1800 Atlanta, GA 30326. Applicant also submitted a layoff letter from “Biomedical Laboratory Corporation” that differed from the one she had submitted with her second County rental assistance application.

Copy C For EMPLOYEE'S RECORDS (See Notice to Employee on back of Copy B.)		2020	OMB No. 1545-0008
a Employee soc. sec. no. [REDACTED]	1 Wages, tips, other comp. 11415.66	2 Federal income tax withheld 395.12	
b Employer ID no. (EIN) 86-3969190	3 Social security wages 11415.66	4 Social security tax withheld 707.78	
	5 Medicare wages and tips 11415.66	6 Medicare tax withheld 165.53	
c Employer's name, address and ZIP code BIOMEDICAL 3340 PEACHTREE NORTH RD STE 1800 ATLANTA, GA 30326			
d Control number 2020389			
e Employee's name, address, and ZIP code [REDACTED] BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435			
7 Social security tips	8 Allocated tips	9 Verification code	
10 Dependent care benefits	11 Nonqualified plans	12a Code See instr. for box 12	
13 Statutory employee	14 Other	12b Code	
Retirement plan		12c Code	
Third-party sick pay		12d Code	
GA 86-396919000	11415.66		
15 State Employer's State ID #	16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State income tax	
18 Local wages, tips, etc. 11415.66	19 Local income tax	20 Locality name	

Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statement Dept. of the Treasury - IRS
This information is being furnished to IRS. If you are required to file a tax return, a negligence penalty/other sanction may be imposed on you if this income is taxable and you fail to report it.

Between May 10 and May 25, 2021, Community Services returned the application to Applicant several times and requested additional information. Applicant resubmitted the application in response each time. Included were the following items:



I have submitted all of the income earned for the part two months. See attachments under income. I have no other income to submit for the pay two months.

I have submitted my income for the month of April 2021 with Doordash. The bank statement has not come out yet this is why I uploaded the transaction history. If you do not want to accept my income that I have provided I will import the self attestation form. Please let me know. I was laid off March 2020. The company I worked for has either filed for bankruptcy, went out of business, or changed the company name. There is no job letter to present to you at this time due to the fact I have not been successful in contacting anyone from my previous employer and no one has returned my phone calls after leaving several messages. I can provide bank statements from my closed account to show the dates of which my check was deposited in 2020 before and after COVID to show the direct effect that I have suffered due to COVID 19.

I was laid off from Biomedical as of March 2020. The company I worked for went out of business some time between March-April of 2020 due to shutdown caused by the pandemic of COVID-19, creating a loss of profits, loss of contracts, as well as countless deaths and lives lost all over the world due to COVID 19.
I am currently working for Doordash and Postmates of which I have uploaded my earnings statement for the month of April 2021.

On May 26, 2021, Community Services denied the application and sent an email to Applicant advising her it was denied due to the inability to establish her eligibility. Applicant resubmitted the application that same day.

On May 27, 2020, James Green from Community Services and the OIG received an email from humanresources@mybiomedical.org attaching an Employee Termination Form allegedly signed by Supervisor Laura Taylor on that date. The form noted that the termination was effective March 7, 2020.

On the same day, the OIG received an email from humanresources@mybiomedical.org signed by "John Collins" at "HR Department". The email stated, in part:

...I do not know whom I am communicating with nor do I understand the nature of your follow up questions as the form provided is very self explanatory... Being her previous employer of more than a year ago we have provided all information needed at this point...

On June 9, 2021 Community Services sent an email to Applicant advising her that her application was denied due to the inability to verify her COVID related crisis.

Applicant's Fourth Rental Assistance Application

The day following Community Services' email to Applicant denying her third rental assistance application, she electronically signed and submitted a fourth rental assistance application, number 78112. The June 10, 2021 rental assistance application requested \$23,000.00 for September 2020 through September 2021, which covered the period requested in her third application plus the addition of September 2021. No action has been taken on this application by Community Services since June 11, 2021.

The supporting documents Applicant submitted with this application included the IRS form W-2 she submitted with her third application and a document showing Applicant as an independent contractor for DoorDash with earnings on March 7 and May 16, 2021. Applicant also wrote the following in the application's declaration of crisis:

I was laid off from Biomedical as pf (sic) March 2020. The company I worked for went out of business some time between March-April of 2020 due to shutdown caused by the pandemic of COVID-19, creating a loss of profits, loss of contracts, as well as countless deaths and lives lost all over the world due to COVID 19. I am currently working for Doordash and Postmates of which I have uploaded my earnings.

OIG Emails from Biomedical

On June 15, 2021 the OIG received an email message, with copy to Applicant's personal email address, from an unidentified individual at humanresources@mybiomedical.org. The email stated, in part:

██████████ has informed me that your are [sic] still conducting some type of investigation on BioMedical LLC to further verify her employment with the company. Here are some additional documentations to help you finalize your

investigation. These are copies of the originals of which were completed by my accountant and then signed, dated, and mailed to The Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service along with the proper payment for the taxes for this previous employee [REDACTED]. This information is now on file as an official record and account with The Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service.

For the record Biomedical LLC is a legal entity, the main number is a 855 number, however it is a real number of my choice. I received the voice mail message from the Inspector General's office of Palm Beach County therefor (sic) the number is a real working number. I can set up and run my business however I choose as long as I abide by the laws of the land. For you to question how I choose to do business is out of line and very discriminatory against a small business just starting up recovering from the pandemic COVID 19. Your comments and questions to me were also very much out of line. The Inspector Generals (sic) Office has never proseed any questions regarding the previous employment of [REDACTED] only harassing and accusatory questions about the company BioMedical LLC...

This should put to rest any questions and or confusion that you may have experienced concerning the previous employment verification of [REDACTED] with the company BioMedical LLC for the year of 2020. Her lay-off was due to COVID 19.

A Form 940 for 2020 was attached to the email.

Form **940 for 2020: Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return** 850113
 Department of the Treasury — Internal Revenue Service OMB No. 1545-0028

Employer identification number (EIN) 8 6 - 3 9 6 9 1 9 0

Name (not your trade name) Biomedical LLC

Trade name (if any)

Address 7901 4TH St N Ste 300
 Number Street Suite or room number

St. Petersburg FL 33702
 City State ZIP code

Foreign country name Foreign province/county Foreign postal code

Type of Return
 (Check all that apply.)

a. Amended

b. Successor employer

c. No payments to employees in 2020

d. Final: Business closed or stopped paying wages

Go to www.irs.gov/Form940 for instructions and the latest information.

Read the separate instructions before you complete this form. Please type or print within the boxes.

Part 1: Tell us about your return. If any line does NOT apply, leave it blank. See instructions before completing Part 1.

1a If you had to pay state unemployment tax in one state only, enter the state abbreviation . 1a F L

1b If you had to pay state unemployment tax in more than one state, you are a multi-state employer 1b Check here. Complete Schedule A (Form 940).

2 If you paid wages in a state that is subject to CREDIT REDUCTION 2 Check here. Complete Schedule A (Form 940).

Part 2: Determine your FUTA tax before adjustments. If any line does NOT apply, leave it blank.

3 Total payments to all employees 3 11415 . 66

Form 940 for BioMedical LLC did not list an address in Georgia. Instead, the address was listed as “7901 4th St. N Ste 300, St. Petersburg [sic], FL 33702.” Additionally, the Form 940 for 2020 listed total payments to all employees as \$11,415.66, which is the amount reflected on Applicant’s paystub dated March 13, 2020 and 2020 Form W2, as her total compensation year to date. The Form 940 did not include payments to any other Biomedical employees for 2020, to include those who may have been a department supervisor, biologist, or Human Resources employee authorized to send Applicant a termination letter or temporary layoff notice.

Biomedical, LLC Registration

The OIG searched the Georgia Secretary of State - Corporations Divisions website⁵ and did not find an entity named Biomedical, Biomedical Laboratory Corporation, or Biomedical, LLC registered in Atlanta or Duluth, Georgia at any time relevant to this report.

Additionally, the OIG reviewed Florida Division of Corporations records and found that Biomedical LLC was registered as a Florida entity on **June 3, 2021**, with a principal address of 7901 4th St. N., Ste. 300, St. Petersburg, FL 33702. The Articles of Organization were dated more than a year after Applicant was allegedly laid off by Biomedical and less than two weeks prior to the OIG’s receipt of the Form 940 listing this address as the company’s place of business. Biomedical LLC’s registered Agent is Northwest Registered Agent, LLC, which is located at the same address. The Articles of Organization show the Registered Agent is Tom Glover and member or authorized representative is Morgan Noble.

OIG Interview of Kenneth Hall

On May 28, 2021, an individual identifying himself as Mr. Kenneth Hall contacted the OIG via telephone. Mr. Hall stated he was a human resources employee for Biomedical. Mr. Hall declined the OIG’s request that he provide information to verify his identity and employment. Mr. Hall said that as of the date of his call, he had no job title and that “Biomedical” was the full name of the company. He said Biomedical was incorporated in Georgia, that its corporate office was located at 3340 Peachtree North, Suite 1800, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, that Biomedical does not have its name on the door of its office location, and that the company would be moving from that location in the near future.

Mr. Hall stated Applicant had been a remote employee of Biomedical since October of 2019. He said Applicant represented Biomedical as a South Florida “assistant sales person,” but he did not know who Applicant assisted or worked with. Mr. Hall then said Applicant was an “assistant biologist.” When the OIG asked Mr. Hall for Biomedical’s website address, Mr. Hall hung up.

⁵ <https://ecorp.sos.ga.gov/BusinessSearch>

OIG Interview of Laura Taylor

A person identifying herself as “Laura Taylor” contacted the OIG via telephone on May 29, 2021, and stated she was calling because she was listening to the telephone conversation with Mr. Hall and wanted to provide more information about Applicant’s employment at Biomedical. Ms. Taylor stated that she would not provide information to verify her own identity.

Ms. Taylor told the OIG that she had been a human resources employee at Biomedical since the company’s inception in February of 2019, but that she did not have a job title. When asked, Ms. Taylor would not answer whether she knew the identity of the President of Biomedical. Ms. Taylor stated Biomedical was formerly known as Biomedical Laboratory Corporation, but Biomedical is not a corporation. She said that at that time, Biomedical was located at 3400 North Peachtree, Suite 1800 in Atlanta, Georgia, and was previously located at 2705 Peachtree Industrial in Duluth, Georgia. Ms. Taylor was informed by the OIG that 2705 Peachtree Industrial in Duluth, Georgia was previously the address of the Hooch Golf Center until its recent development as residential housing. Ms. Taylor did not respond to that information.

Ms. Taylor stated Biomedical laid off “all of its employees” due to the pandemic. She said Biomedical has no external website, and Biomedical gets its business by referrals from doctors and customers.

OIG Interview of an Unidentified Woman Claiming to be the Owner and Registered Agent of Biomedical, LLC

On June 3, 2021, a woman who refused to identify herself telephoned the OIG and claimed to be the owner and registered agent of Biomedical, LLC.⁶ The woman said she started Biomedical in Georgia before the COVID-19 pandemic, but never registered the business there. She said at that time, her only employee was the Applicant. The unidentified woman said Applicant received a salary from Biomedical in Georgia from December 2019 until March 2020, at which time she was laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that Applicant was not employed at Biomedical, LLC, which had been recently registered with the Florida Division of Corporations with a primary business address of 7901 4th St N, Ste 300 St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

The woman said the purpose of her call was to reassure the OIG that Biomedical is a real company and that Applicant had been her employee, but as a result of COVID-19 lost her employment. She would not confirm nor deny whether Kenneth Hall and Laura Taylor were Biomedical employees and refused to divulge where she and Biomedical were located.

⁶ Biomedical, LLC was registered on that exact date in the State of Florida.

OIG Interview of Julie Alexis of Access Accounting & Payroll, LLC

On September 2, 2021, Julie Alexis of Access Accounting & Payroll, a tax preparation company based in Boynton Beach, Florida confirmed to the OIG that she completed the Form 940 for 2020 attached to the June 15, 2021 email that OIG received from humanresources@mybiomedical.org. She said that in approximately June or July of 2021 Applicant provided her with the information to complete the forms, including that Biomedical, LLC paid all employees \$11,415.66 in 2020, and that Applicant told her that the IRS form was needed to document that Applicant had paid an employee in 2020. She advised that Applicant gave her a copy of her driver's license and social security card and provided a copy of Biomedical, LLC's Articles of Organization filed with the Florida Division of Corporations on June 3, 2021. Ms. Alexis completed the Form 940 for 2020 per Applicant's request, but did not file them with the IRS.

OIG Interview of Migdalia Lopez, Community Manager at Rental Address

Ms. Migdalia Lopez stated Applicant's move-in date at the Rental Address was August 31, 2019, and that Applicant was behind on her rent from the day she moved in. Shortly after she moved in, Applicant's rent check was returned for insufficient funds. The Rental Address received a check from the County for Applicant rent from April, 2020 through August, 2020. Ms. Lopez also provided to the OIG a copy of a letter that Applicant submitted to the Rental Address verifying her employment, position and salary, and provided a copy of that letter to the OIG. Applicant provided Ms. Lopez with an employment verification letter listing her employer as Biomedical Laboratory Corporation (sic), 2705 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Duluth, GA 30097. The letter listed the employer's contact as "Becky MacPhersen, Human Resources Department."

The OIG noted that the Employment Verification letter had a different zip code (30097) and employer contact than the information Applicant submitted to the County (30057) for the same street address. Additionally, the letter listed the company's phone number as the toll-free number 833-388-9900, instead of the toll-free numbers 855-685-9900 and 855-865-9900 listed on the information submitted with her rental assistance applications. The letter stated that Applicant was born in 2018 and earned \$67,200 per year and/or \$1,498 weekly as a Level II Biologist, commencing August 10, 2019.

- A \$1,498 weekly salary does not equate to \$67,200 annually. A salary of \$67,200.00 annually is equal to \$1,292.31 weekly ($\$67,200.00/52$ weeks). \$1,498.00 weekly is equal to \$77,896.00 annually ($\$1,498.00 \times 52$ weeks).

- The listed phone number for Biomedical's Human Resources Department was given as (833) 388-9900. However, open source records show this phone number is associated with ██████████ LLC, and that Applicant is the CEO of that entity.⁷

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██████████ LLC Action

Ads by Google
Stop seeing this ad Why this ad?

Contact Information
██████████
Boynton Beach, FL 33435
Contact: ██████████
Title: Chief Executive Officer
Phone: (833) 388-9900
Website: ██████████
There are 7 Companies located at 101 S Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach, FL 33435

Ads by Google
Stop seeing this ad
Why this ad?

Business Description
██████████ is located in Boynton Beach, Florida. This organization primarily operates in the Marketing Consulting Services business / industry within the Engineering, Accounting, Research, and Management Services sector. This organization has been operating for approximately a year. ██████████ is estimated to generate \$227,966 in annual revenues, and employs approximately 5 people at this single location.

Sector: Engineering, Accounting, Research, and Management Services
Category: Management Consulting Services
Industry: Marketing Consulting Services
SIC Code: 8742
NAICS Name: Marketing Consulting Services
NAICS Code: 541613

Name: ██████████
Year Founded: 2020
Engaged In:
 Manufacturing
 Importing
 Exporting

State of Inc: Florida
Location Type: Single
Revenue: \$ 227,966
Employees Here: 5
Facility Size: N/A
* Revenue & Employees are estimates

OIG Interview of Applicant

On June 4, 2021, Applicant telephoned the OIG. Applicant stated Community Services personnel had communicated with her that her application was on hold because it was under review by the OIG.

Applicant stated she worked remotely for Biomedical, a company based out of Georgia, from December 2019 through March 7, 2020, when she was laid off because of COVID-19. She would not comment on her position or duties at Biomedical, nor provide the name of her supervisor or the owner of Biomedical. Applicant said the paystubs and documents she provided for the rental assistance applications were legitimate. When asked if she could provide additional documents such as bank statements, canceled checks and/or proof that she received a salary from Biomedical, she stated she did not recall where she banked during the time period she was paid by Biomedical. She then stated she did not use a bank and that she cashed Biomedical paychecks at check cashing stores. Applicant

⁷ In a response to Community Services on 4/29/2021, Applicant stated she was no longer associated with ██████████ ██████████ LLC had not made any profits or income in 2020 or 2021.

said the owner of Biomedical told her Biomedical is now registered in Florida, but she has not been asked to return to work.

On the same date, Applicant emailed to the OIG documents including a temporary layoff letter from Biomedical Laboratory Corporation dated March 7, 2020 and a 2020 IRS Form W2.⁸

The OIG scheduled an interview with Applicant for September 3, 2021, but she did not appear for the interview. Instead, she sent an email to the OIG on that date which stated, in part:

...I have no problem cooperating with your investigation, however I respectfully decline the zoom interview due to the tract (sic) that I invoking (sic) my constitutional right of the fifth amendment... your (sic) can submit any documentation via email so that myself, my professional team, and my legal team can review and answer your questions...

OIG Analysis of Applicant's Documents

The OIG noted multiple discrepancies and inaccuracies in the documents Applicant submitted to the County. The employer is alternately shown as Biomedical, Biomedical Laboratory, Biomedical Laboratory Corporation (Corporation spelled with two Ps) Research & Technologies and Biomedical Laboratory Corporation Research & Technologies (Corporation spelled correctly).

The documents also showed conflicting addresses for Biomedical:

- 2705 Peachtree Industrial, **Duluth, Georgia** 30057
- 2705 Peachtree Industrial, **Duluth, Florida** 30057
- 3340 Peachtree North Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30326

OIG searches of open source records found no business with the word "Biomedical" in its title at 2705 Peachtree in Atlanta, Georgia, or at 3340 Peachtree in Atlanta, Georgia. We also found no business named "Biomedical Laboratory Corporation" or "Biomedical" in the State of Georgia. Further, we found that 2705 Peachtree Industrial, Duluth GA 30057 is not a valid address. The zip code 30057 is for Lithia Springs, Georgia, not Duluth; the zip code for Duluth, Georgia is 30097. 2705 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Duluth GA 30097 is a valid address; however, it was the address for The Hooch Golf Club. In addition, we found there is no Duluth in the State of Florida.

The OIG searched public database records and found no results for Employer Identification Number (EIN) 86-3969190, the Biomedical EIN provided to the OIG by both Mr. Hall and Ms. Taylor, and listed on the W2 form provided by Applicant. We also found no results for humanresources@mybiomedical.org, or for an association of telephone number (855) 685-9900 with Biomedical.

⁸ These are the same documents Applicant submitted with her third Rental Assistance application.

The “Temporary Layoff Notice” from Biomedical that Applicant submitted to the County with her second rental assistance application on April 29, 2021 contained notable issues. Specifically, in the letterhead, “CORPPORATION” is misspelled with two Ps. Further, the letter is dated **April 7, 2021**, yet the body of the letter states that Applicant is being placed in a temporary layoff status that “...will be effective **March 7, 2020.**” [Emphasis added]

The layoff notice from Biomedical that Applicant submitted with her third rental assistance application, and also provided to the OIG on June 4, 2021 is a completely different letter than the one she submitted with her second County application. “Corporation” is spelled correctly in the letterhead, and the letter is dated March 7, 2020. In addition, while the first letter was signed by “Hailey Hill, Department Supervisor”, the second was signed by “Laura Taylor HR Department”.

Paystub Analysis

Applicant submitted paystubs with both her first and third rental assistance applications to the County covering the pay period of January 26 through February 8, 2020. However, the paystubs showed different amounts, deductions, and check numbers, and one showed Biomedical’s address as Duluth, Georgia, while the other showed the company’s address as Duluth, Florida.

Application #17852 Paystub

BIOMEDICAL 2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL DULUTH, GA 30057		[REDACTED] BOYTON BEACH, FL 33435		Gross Pay \$2,611.76 Net Pay \$2,314.54 Filing Status H8	Period Beginning 1/26/2020 Period Ending 2/8/2020 Check Date 2/14/2020 Check No 762561
Earnings				Taxes/Deductions	
	Hours/Rate	Amount	YTD Amt	Amount	YTD Amt
Regular hourly pay	80.00/28.85	\$2,308.00	\$6,924.00	Fed Income Tax \$97.42	\$298.48
Overtime hourly pay	7.02/43.27	\$303.76	\$963.20	Social Security Tax \$161.93	\$489.01
Gross Pay		\$2,611.76	\$7,887.20	Medicare Tax \$37.87	\$114.36
				State Income Tax \$0.00	\$0.00
				Local Income Tax \$0.00	\$0.00
				Net Pay \$2,314.54	\$6,985.35

Application #75745 Paystub

BIOMEDICAL 2705 PEACHTREE INDUSTRIAL DULUTH, FL 30057		[REDACTED] BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435		[REDACTED]		Period Beginning 1/26/2020 Period Ending 2/8/2020 Check Date 2/14/2020 Check No. 3886927
		Gross Pay \$2,664.54 Net Pay \$2,357.72 Filing Status H8				
Earnings	Hours/Rate	Amount	YTD Amt	Taxes/Deductions	Amount	YTD Amt
Regular hourly pay	80.00/\$28.85	\$2,308.00	\$8,794.35	Fed Income Tax	\$102.98	\$304.25
Overtime hourly pay	8.24/\$43.27	\$356.54	\$901.30	Social Security Tax	\$165.20	\$601.13
Gross Pay		\$2,664.54	\$9,695.65	Medicare Tax	\$38.64	\$140.59
				State Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Local Income Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Net Pay	\$2,357.72	\$8,649.68

In addition, the OIG’s analysis of Applicant’s paystubs showed deductions of approximately 3.5% for Federal Income, 6.2% for Social Security and 1.45% for Medicare Taxes, and no Georgia state income tax. However, according to paycheck calculation software, a single individual employed in Duluth, Georgia who earns an hourly wage of \$28.85 per hour and \$43.27 per overtime hour (the pay rates shown on the paystubs for Applicant) with seven overtime hours per pay period should pay 14.57% in Federal Income, 5.10% in Georgia State income tax, 6.2% in Social Security, and 1.45% in Medicare taxes.

OIG Conclusion

The information Applicant submitted with her County applications regarding her loss of employment was riddled with inconsistent and false information. The individuals who were purported representatives of Applicant’s employer refused to provide reliable and verifiable information to support their statements.

Applicant’s rental assistance supporting documentation, including her employment verifications, paystubs, and lease application, contained conflicting addresses, compensation information, misspellings, and at times listed her employer in the non-existent city of Duluth, FL. Based upon the totality of the information uncovered during our investigation, we find that Applicant submitted fabricated documents to the County in support of multiple rental assistance applications in an attempt to obtain inappropriate rental assistance from the County. Applicant’s first rental assistance resulted in payment of \$9,440.00 to her landlord. Applicant unsuccessfully attempted to obtain \$23,000 in rental assistance through false and inaccurate applications.

The allegation that Applicant provided false information in her rental assistance applications is **supported**.

IDENTIFIED COSTS

Identified Costs: \$9,440.00

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Inspector General's Investigations Division would like to thank the Palm Beach County Community Services Department staff for their cooperation throughout this investigation.

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The OIG recommends that the County seek reimbursement of \$9,440.00 in funds issued as a result of Applicant's inaccurate submissions.

RESPONSE FROM MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to Article XII, Section 2-427 of the Palm Beach County Code, Community Services was provided the opportunity to submit a written explanation or rebuttal to the finding and recommendation as stated in this Investigative Report within ten (10) calendar days. Their written response is as follows:

The County concurs with the IG recommendation included in Investigative Report 2021-0012. The Community Services Department will seek reimbursement of the \$9,440.00 issued to the subject named in this investigation.

RESPONSE FROM APPLICANT

Pursuant to Article XII, Section 2-427 of the Palm Beach County Code, Applicant was provided the opportunity to submit a written explanation or rebuttal to the finding as stated in this Investigative Report within ten (10) calendar days. Her written response is as follows:

Case number 2021-0012

This is [REDACTED] and I am writing this as my response to the investigational (sic) draft emailed to me. These allegations are false! The first thing I would like to address is the information provided regarding Julie Alexis. I [REDACTED] never filed any paperwork or tax documents pertaining to the company Biomedical LLC. I am not the owner of Biomedical LLC therefor (sic) I have no legal claim of reason to file taxes for a company I do not own. Per our conversation I already explained I am not responsible for any typos, misspelled words, and or inaccurate information given to me for submittal and or provided by Biomedical LLC. As I have already stated on numerous occasions that I was a previous employee of Biomedical LLC laid off due to COVID shutdown. Therefor (sic) I am not responsible for the tax filing for Biomedical LLC nor am I responsible for any paperwork or documentations (sic) coming from Biomedical LLC. Please forward any documents from Julie Alexis with my signature as owner of Biomedical, please request the tax records from the IRS for Biomedical where you will not find the name [REDACTED] anywhere, and lastly please swear out an affidavit from Ms.

Julie Alexis with supporting documentation with my name [REDACTED] as employer and or owner so I can sue her for falsifying an investigation. As for the matter concerning a bounced check (sic), the matter has been resolved. The leasing office had already deposited the check after I decided to pay with alternate transaction method so the action could not be stopped and or reversed. No illegal activities has been committed me myself (sic) [REDACTED]. As for as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that is not my company either, I am not the owner. You never contacted my previous employer to verify my employment. My previous employer called you and at that time you still did not attempt to verify my employment.

I am ONLY guilty of not proof reading (sic) documents given to me by Biomedical however that is not a crime nor is it my responsibility ensure the grammar and or spelling of separate entity. I never composed not one document that was submitted. I am not part of any higher up departments that handle such matters. I only wish you would not have dragged your feet o (sic) this investigation so that the situation could have been addressed a lot sooner. I am here to answer any questions pertaining to this matter and if I need a lawyer I will seek legal counsel. However your investigation appears to very incomplete because your information is inaccurate. Either Julie Alexis told you a bold face lie that directly jeopardizes her reputation, credibility, and legal professional license. Or it is you who are making up false narratives because I [REDACTED] never filled, completed, submitted, requested and or paid for any services of Julie Alexis regarding any type of tax forms on behalf of Biomedical LLC. I am not responsible for the filing status of a company that I only worked for, that is not logical at all. I am not the owner and or part owner of Biomedical LLC and I am no longer employed with Biomedical LLC at this time.

In conclusion in order for your investigation to be complete and for you to have the proper and accurate information moving forward. It is advised for you to subpoena the records from Julie Alexis and you will find and you will discover that the the (sic) person who submitted the tax forms in question mentioned above on behalf of Biomedical LLC as well as the owner of Biomedical LLC in (sic) NOT [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Also it is advised for you to subpoena the records from Florida Sun Biz once again your (sic) will find and you will discover that the owner of Biomedical is NOT [REDACTED]. It is also advise (sic) for you to subpoena the records from the IRS tax department and once again you will find and you will discover that the owner of Biomedical is NOT [REDACTED].

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]

This Investigation has been conducted in accordance with the ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL Principles & Quality Standards for Investigations.