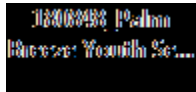


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**From:** Lynch, Zantorfa B.  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 4:07 PM  
**To:** Holt, Carlos L <HoltCL@cityofgainesville.org>  
**Cc:** Bowie, Deborah V <BowieDV@cityofgainesville.org>; Bowie, Emily V <BowieEV@cityofgainesville.org>  
**Subject:** City Commission Agenda Item Backup for Reichert House Audit Discussion  
**Importance:** High

Good afternoon Mr. Holt,

Please find attached letter received by our office for inclusion among the backup attachments for the City Commission agenda item on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if there are questions.



Thank you,

**Gainesville.**  
Citizen centered  
People empowered

**Zantorfa “Zanni” Lynch, PHR, SHRM-CP**  
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RECEIVED

APR - 5 2019

Timothy McLendon  
P.O. Box 117629  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7629  
March 25, 2019

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Ms. Deborah Bowie  
City Manager  
City of Gainesville  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32601

**Re: Response by Palm Breeze Youth Services, Inc., to Draft Audit Report dated  
March 11, 2019**

**By e-mail: [howiedv@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:howiedv@cityofgainesville.org)**

Dear Ms. Bowie:

This letter responds to the Draft Audit Report, Audit of the Reichert House Youth Academy—Governance, Financial Processes, and Performance Metrics, released by City Auditor Carlos Holt on March 11, 2019. I write on behalf of Palm Breeze Youth Services, Inc. (PBYS), a non-profit corporation which has worked closely in past years with the Reichert House Youth Academy, the target of this audit. Together with local attorney and PBYS Board member, Bobi Frank, I was asked by the PBYS Board to help the corporation identify relevant financial records to respond to the City Auditor's request for financial information.

As both Ms. Frank and I made clear, PBYS understands that any funds which may have been designated to or provided to a city entity like the Reichert House Youth Academy are subject to audit by the City of Gainesville. PBYS agrees that records relating to these funds must be subject to inspection by the City Auditor upon request. However, as a non-profit whose interests and focus do not exclusively lie in the Reichert House Youth Academy, there are other documents and accounts which do not relate to that entity, including donor records. The City does not have the right to examine these records upon request. Much of the work Ms. Frank and I did for PBYS involved screening documents to be sure that only those records touching upon the Reichert House Youth Academy were released to the City Auditor.

This should not have been an adversarial process, and we sought to co-operate fully with the City Auditor in his legitimate task of scrutinizing this City program, subject to the constraints of protecting donor information and other PBYS records which were not related to City funds. For this reason, we requested the City Auditor to be specific about the records he sought from PBYS. From her December 18, 2018 letter, and through every subsequent communication, Ms. Frank and I emphasized this need for specificity in which records should be provided by PBYS.

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Sadly, the hopes and expectations that the audit would be conducted in a collaborative manner were not realized. The Draft Report was released on March 11, 2019, while Mr. Holt was still nominally in discussions with us about whether he had fully received necessary documents from PBYS. This Draft Report makes assertions that no help from PBYS (or other non-city entities) was forthcoming after requests for information. These assertions are false and misleading. The Appendix provided with Ms. Frank's communication to you detail the written records of communications between PBYS and Mr. Holt about his requests for documents, and our good faith efforts to provide the documents and records to which he was entitled.

Most shockingly, Mr. Holt, in his Draft Report, directs much of his vitriol against one of the two attorneys who volunteered to help screen PBYS files and provide necessary records to the City Auditor. These personal attacks have no basis in fact, and Ms. Frank has responded to them carefully and fully in her own response to you. However, the practice of attacking an attorney who is facilitating the production of records is a shocking and disturbing precedent. Ms. Frank has been forced by this Draft Report to defend her own personal and professional integrity. She has done so effectively both with regard to her earlier history of legal work on behalf of Reichert House, Inc., and with regard to her handling of the current audit on behalf of PBYS. However, the decision of the City Auditor to focus on Ms. Frank makes it difficult for a small non-profit to receive effective assistance of counsel in a matter such as this with real legal consequences.

Once more, PBYS has no fears of a proper audit of the Reichert House Youth Academy, and of its own interactions with that entity. Where improvements in practices can be identified and implemented, we will applaud this. If better means are suggested to accomplish the important work that Reichert House does, we will accommodate ourselves to that reality. However, we are concerned that, based on the allegations included in the Draft Report and the tone in which those allegations are made, Mr. Holt lacks the impartiality necessary to conduct this audit.

I hope that this letter, together with Ms. Frank's communication, will help you better understand the details surrounding the audit of Reichert House Youth Academy, and especially the City Auditor's own failings in the production of this Draft Report. I am happy to respond to any further questions you may have about this letter, or the relationship between PBYS and the Reichert House Youth Academy.

Yours faithfully,



Timothy McLendon

Attorney

[tedmcl@msn.com](mailto:tedmcl@msn.com)

cc: Louis Kalivoda, PBYS Chair  
Bobi Frank, Esq.