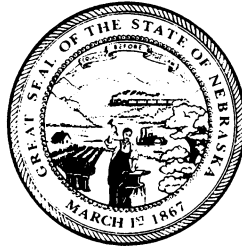


State of Nebraska

Accountability and Disclosure Commission

P.O. BOX 95086
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
www.nadc.nebraska.gov



Centre Terrace, 1225 L St. #400
Phone (402) 471-2522
Fax (402) 471-6599

March 26, 2024

Ryan ZimmerMas
3520 South 78th Street
Omaha, NE 68124

Re: C-2 Potential Conflict of Interest Statement

Dear Mr. ZimmerMas,

This will acknowledge receipt of a C-2, Potential Conflict of Interest Statement ("Statement"), which you filed with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission ("NADC") on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

You are the Lead Economic Recovery Program Manager with the Department of Economic Development. You have been working directly with an organization known as Spark CDI. Up until March 18, 2024, you did not have any employment or other financial arrangement with Spark. However, on March 18, 2024, you became aware of a possible employment opportunity for yourself with Spark. At that time, you informed your Supervisor of that situation, and you arranged for your responsibilities with respect to Spark be handled by someone else.

Under the terms of §49-1499.03(2), you must file a Statement where you would be required, "to take any action or make any decision" in the discharge of your official duties that, "may cause financial benefit or detriment to [you], a member of your immediate family, or a business with which [you are] associated."

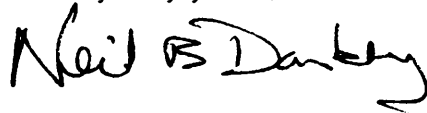
In your case, because of possible employment with Spark, you would have a potential conflict of interest in taking actions or making decisions which might affect your relationship with Spark. Under these circumstances, you were correct in distancing yourself from any actions or decisions which might affect Spark. We further note that prior to the 18th of March you apparently did not have a potential relationship with Spark.

We believe you have acted correctly to avert any potential conflict of interest with Spark.

Our opinion in this matter is premised upon the material facts which we have outlined above. If any of these facts are inaccurate or incomplete, please contact us immediately.

Thank you for your timely filing of the subject Statement.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil B. Danberg". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The "N" is large and loops around the "e". The "B" is written with a large loop. The "Danberg" part is written in a more straightforward cursive style.

Neil B. Danberg, General Counsel

NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION 1225 L St., Suite 400 P.O. Box 95086 Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-2522	POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT NADC FORM C-2	POSTMARK DATE	3/19/24
		MICROFILM NUMBER	
BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM READ THE FILING REQUIREMENTS ON PAGE 3		OFFICE USE ONLY	
		9	

- An official or employee of the executive branch of state government or any other official or employee required to file Statements of Financial Interests must file this form if he or she has a potential conflict of interest.
- Elected officials of school districts and elected officials of villages and cities (except Omaha and Lincoln) should not use this form. Use Potential Conflict of Interest Statement Form C-2A.
- File this Potential Conflict of Interest Statement with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission and with your immediate superior (if any) whenever a potential conflict of interest situation arises.
- Persons who fail to disclose a potential conflict of interest or who otherwise do not comply with the law are subject to penalties.

ITEM 1	NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
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Name	<u>ZimmerMas</u>	<u>Ryan</u>	<u>R</u>	Telephone No.	<u>531-207-5020</u>
	Last	First	Middle		
Address	<u>3520 S 78th St</u>	<u>Omaha</u>	<u>NE</u>	<u>68124</u>	
	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	City	STATE	ZIP CODE	

ITEM 2	TITLE, AGENCY, ADDRESS, PHONE AND SUPERIOR
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Your Title	<u>Lead Economic Recovery Program Manager</u>	Agency	<u>Department of Economic Development</u>
Agency Address	<u>245 Fallbrook Blvd STE 002</u>	Agency Phone	<u>402-471-3111</u>
Name of Immediate Superior	<u>Javier Saldaña, Jr.</u>	Title	<u>Division Administrator</u>

ITEM 3	DESCRIBE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN DETAIL (Use Item 7 Continuation, if necessary)
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Date action is to be taken or decision is to be made: _____

Description of Potential Conflict:

On December 8 and December 11, 2023, I participated in a grant application scoring committee meeting that included an application for Spark CDI. At the time, I had no interest in working for Spark, and no indication that Spark was interested in hiring me at a future date. As such, I did not report any conflict of interest in the matter of scoring the grant application. Committee members ranked applications but did not decide on funding or funding amounts.

I met with Spark's executive director, Buey Tut, three times in the following months: December 29, 2023; February 5, 2024; and February 23, 2024. The meeting on February 23, 2024 also included another employee from Spark, Angela Smith. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss DED's grant program and provide technical assistance.

On January 29, 2024, Javier Saldana Jr., my supervisor, assigned Spark's award management responsibilities to me after a DED employee who had been managing their award left the agency.

(continued in Item 7)

ITEM 4 PERSONS WHO MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT☒ You☐ Member of your Immediate Family: _____

NAME

Business With Which You

☐ Are Associated (See Definitions) _____

NAME OF BUSINESS

ITEM 5 NATURE OF FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT

The nature of the financial benefit is that Spark may employ me at a future date.

As of March 19, 2024, I have not applied for any position at Spark, nor has Spark or any employee of Spark issued a written or verbal offer of employment.

On March 18, 2024, I expressed interest in potentially applying for a position at Spark in the future.

ITEM 6 FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE ONLY

If you will not abstain from acting on a matter state why, despite the potential conflict, you intend to vote or otherwise participate.

ITEM 7 CONTINUATION

Throughout February 2024 and the first two weeks of March 2024, I performed my assigned duties related to communicating with Spark and providing technical assistance related to the grant, contract, and grant budget.

On March 18, 2024, I received an email from Angela Smith, a Spark employee, that led me to believe Spark may be interested in considering me for an upcoming job opportunity. I immediately reported the potential conflict to my supervisor, Javier Saldana, and requested that my responsibilities related to Spark be immediately assigned to a different employee.

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

03/19/2024