

in power in Lansing.

"We're going to need Kristian Grant when she's in the state House," Womack said of Howell's message to him.

Howell denied Womack's claim in a statement.

"As you know, we took the allegations seriously," Howell said. "We first conducted an internal review and then referred the issue to an external law firm for an independent review."

In a series of written responses to The News, Grant described the discrepancy as "a simple accounting error that was corrected."

"The product was delivered to customers in January 2020, but pre-order sales occurred in November and December 2019," Grant wrote. "The accountant I was working with at the time initially attributed the sales to the month of delivery instead of the month of the actual sale and subsequently the wrong year.

"As a result, I had to amend my state and federal returns and resubmit."

A day planner

Grant's explanation didn't detail why money her business reportedly made off ticket sales would have been attributed to the wrong month. Her past website also indicated people could simply pick up day planners in person.

Likewise, the financial numbers reported to the county suggested her business increased 50-fold, from \$205 in sales in 2019 to \$10,400 in sales across December 2019, January 2020 and February 2020, a 5,000% jump.

Grant declined to allow The News to review her tax filings to verify her assertions.

In 2020, at the time of the pandemic, Grant was a member of the Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education.

Both of her businesses that received grants from Kent County, Mini Mogul Group and Game Plan Lifestyle Planner, aren't registered with Kent County as businesses, according to the Kent County clerk's office.