

Across November and December 2020, the business made more than 70 Facebook posts. But from Nov. 11, 2018, through Nov. 8, 2020, which includes the period reviewed for the grant, there were zero posts, according to Game Plan Lifestyle Planner's current Facebook page.

## **A closed inquiry**

Nelson, the outside lawyer who handled the examination of the funds provided to Grant, declined to answer questions from The News.

Lori Latham, a spokeswoman for Kent County, said the county wouldn't lift attorney-client privilege to allow Nelson to be interviewed by The News.

In a statement, Kent County administrator Al Vanderberg said Grant had filed amended paperwork that clarified the discrepancy the county identified.

"This amended paperwork demonstrated that Ms. Grant met the requirements for the grant funding," Vanderberg said. "Upon the advice of our legal counsel and considering the findings from the independent review, we consider this inquiry closed."

Likewise, Stan Stek, chairman of the Kent County Board of Commissioners, said he believes questions from a member of the public spurred the county to examine the funds provided to Grant. Stek said it was determined that there was no basis for further investigation.

"On its face, everything appeared to be appropriate," Stek said.

But Womack maintained that Grant was being treated differently than other business owners in the county who had mishandled COVID-19 relief money.

"I don't know why they would bend all the way backward into a folding chair to let her get away with this," Womack said.

Nationally, the U.S. Department of Justice's COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force has charged more than 3,500 defendants for defrauding the government during the pandemic, according to a report issued last Tuesday.

*cmauger@detroitnews.com*