

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL**



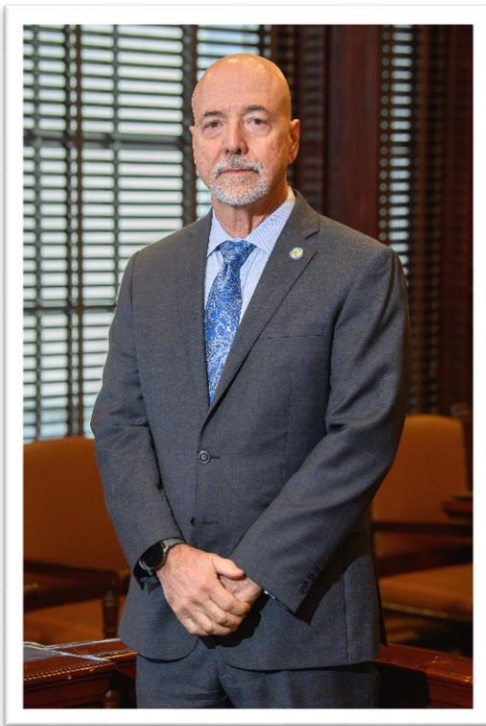
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MESSAGE FROM YOUR INSPECTOR GENERAL



As the Inspector General for Miami-Dade County, I am pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report. This report highlights the continued efforts and accomplishments of our office in promoting accountability, transparency, and integrity within the operations of Miami-Dade County government.

Throughout the past year, the Miami-Dade County Office of Inspector General (OIG) has remained committed to its mission of investigating and preventing misconduct, fraud, waste, and abuse through the independent oversight of County operations and programs. Our office has carried out thorough audits, investigations, and reviews of various county operations and programs to help ensure that taxpayer funds are used effectively.

Notably, we have identified areas of improvement and helped implement measures that will strengthen oversight and promote good governance. Through our oversight work we have not only uncovered instances of inefficiency and corruption but have also facilitated reforms to prevent such issues from recurring. Our commitment to public service and our role in safeguarding the trust of the community remains steadfast.

This report outlines the key findings of our work in 2024, including our investigative outcomes, audit and contract oversight reports, and recommendations. While challenges remain as we enter an era of newly elected constitutional officers and a restructuring of the county's budget, the OIG will continue to work diligently to foster a culture of efficient and responsible management.

As always, we remain dedicated to our mission and look forward to another year of serving the public with transparency and accountability. I invite you to read through the pages of this report to gain insight into our efforts and successes in ensuring that the public's interests are always prioritized.

Sincerely,

Felix Jimenez
Inspector General

ABOUT THE OIG

Autonomous and independent, the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was created by the Board of County Commissioners, and now codified in the County's Home Rule Charter, to serve as a watchdog over County practices. Through three distinct yet overlapping functions – audits, investigations, and contract oversight – the OIG investigates fraud, waste, and abuse, rendering findings based on facts and evidence.

MISSION

To detect, investigate, and prevent fraud, waste, mismanagement, misconduct, and abuse of power through independent oversight of County affairs, and seek appropriate remedies to recover public monies.

VISION

To be recognized as the premier agency in holding Miami-Dade County government accountable, ensuring it continues to provide excellence every day.



VALUES

Integrity

We govern ourselves honestly and ethically.

Impartiality

We conduct our work objectively and independently.

Professionalism

We maintain a staff of diverse and highly skilled professionals.

Accountability

We take responsibility for providing thorough and fair findings and recommendations.

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I. THE OIG EXECUTIVE TEAM



(left to right) Hector Ortiz, Marie Perikles, Felix Jimenez, James Schlotzhauer and Patra Liu

Inspector General Felix Jimenez is the head of the organization. His Executive Team includes Deputy Inspector General/General Counsel Patra Liu, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz, Deputy General Counsel Marie Perikles, and Director of Data Analytics James Schlotzhauer.

Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz leads the Investigations Unit, which consists of three squads of experienced Special Agents supported by a team of skilled Investigative Analysts. When investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse of authority reveal criminal wrongdoing, the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations coordinates with state and federal criminal prosecutors to shepherd OIG cases to a successful legal resolution.

Ms. Liu and Deputy General Counsel Marie Perikles manage the Legal Unit, which includes four additional attorneys. The Legal Unit provides continuous support to all OIG activities from the moment a complaint is received to case closure, which oftentimes involves the issuance of public reports and memoranda. OIG attorneys provide counsel on jurisdictional questions and help assess the strengths and weaknesses of OIG cases for potential civil, administrative, or criminal

implications. They also review all subpoenas issued by the Inspector General and all public reports prior to release.

Ms. Liu also oversees the OIG's Contract Oversight and Audit Units. Four Contract Oversight Specialists are deployed countywide. Their work includes active monitoring and random inspections of contracting and construction activities to ensure fairness in the procurement process and compliance with contract specifications. The Audit Unit consists of a team of certified professionals with a wide range of government and private sector experience. The Audit Unit frequently coordinates with the Investigations Unit and/or Contract Oversight Unit. All three units work together to advance the mission of the Office.

As the Director of Data Analytics, James Schlotzhauer has the primary responsibility to ensure the alignment, development, and integration of data analytics, business intelligence, and artificial intelligence necessary to support the mission, vision, strategies, objectives, and goals of the OIG. Mr. Schlotzhauer organizes, assembles and supports resources necessary to address the current and future analytical needs of the OIG.

II. OIG BEST PRACTICES & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program



Inspector General Felix Jimenez and OIG Contract Oversight Specialist Dr. Terry Murphy hosted a successful exchange with international delegates who were invited to the U.S. under the auspices of the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program arranged by World Learning in coordination with Global Ties Miami. A group of 17 visitors from Benin, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Haiti, and Zimbabwe visited the OIG and explored the crucial roles played by independent oversight agencies in reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement to advance transparency and accountability.

The experience of IG Jimenez, a former public corruption investigator, and Dr. Murphy, a professor of Public Administration, provided valuable insights into the workings of an effective watchdog entity.



Vendor Outreach

On September 12, 2024, the Office of the Inspector General’s Contract Oversight Specialists and Assistant Legal Counsels participated in the 5th Annual Procurement EXPO sponsored by the Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department (SPD). OIG personnel were available throughout the day to introduce county vendors and potential new vendors to the procurement oversight role of the OIG and to answer questions from the vendor community. In 2024, there were approximately 52 exhibitors and 652 attendees! This was the OIG’s fifth appearance at the EXPO—having participated since its inception.

The OIG looks forward to participating in future SPD forums.



(left to right) Contract Oversight Specialist Alfonso Ledo, Assistant Legal Counsel Melissa Sandness and Contract Oversight Specialist Alex Rodriguez

Ethical Governance Day



Annually, the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE) hosts a countywide event at all public high schools. Ethical Governance Day relies on an army of volunteers to speak to senior high school students about the importance of good government and public service.

On October 23, 2024, Inspector General Felix Jimenez and Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz

volunteered for Ethical Governance Day by speaking to students at Miami Senior High School and Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School. They were joined by COE Commissioner Nelson Bellido. They spoke to senior high school students about celebrating the right to vote—2024’s theme—and the roles of the Miami-Dade County OIG and COE in helping foster good governance in our public institutions. OIG representatives have been volunteering for this event for over a decade. We look forward to the opportunity to instill public service values among the County’s teenagers and young adults.



OIG Presents at the American Society for Public Administration South Florida 18th Annual Best Practices Conference



(left to right) Contract Oversight Specialist Dr. Terence Murphy, Investigative Analyst Supervisor Kimberly D. Samuel, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz and Inspector General Felix Jimenez

The OIG was on hand at the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) South Florida Chapter’s Best Practices Conference in February 2024. Inspector General Felix Jimenez, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz, and Investigative Analyst Supervisor Kimberly Samuel served on a panel moderated by OIG Contract Oversight Specialist Terry Murphy—an ASPA National Council Board Member. The session entitled “Standing Watch: Accountability and the Role of the Inspector General” provided an overview of the functions and operations of the OIG and highlighted several OIG public corruption investigations in recent years. Following the presentation, the panelists responded to numerous questions from the audience pertaining to the qualifications of OIG personnel, the jurisdiction of the agency, and the agency’s independence from political interference.

ASPA’s mission is to advance excellence in public service and is the leading professional membership association for public servants. The audience for the conference primarily consisted of individuals employed by government, non-profits, and academia. The conference was also attended by college students pursuing degrees in Public Administration. The 2024 conference theme *XYZ: Public Service Across Generations* focused on technology, ethics, multigenerational wellbeing, public relations, and workforce development.

Take Your Child to Work Day



Take Your Child to Work Day is a national day that gives children a glimpse into the working world, shows them the value of their education, and provides an opportunity to share how they envision the future. The 2024 theme “Inspire 2 Aspire” aimed to instill a mindset that children can choose their own future. On April 25, 2024, the children of OIG staff spent a day in our office as “*Honorary Inspectors General*” exploring different career opportunities in investigations, auditing, contract oversight, and the

law. OIG Auditor Cristin Revilla looks forward to welcoming our children every year and plans an exciting day for them and our staff. We look forward to seeing them come back each year with enthusiasm and curiosity.

First Aid, CPR, and AED Training



The OIG recognizes the importance of being equipped with life-saving skills as a vital contribution to the safety and security of all while upholding the values of care, responsibility, and preparedness. In 2024, Risk Management Safety Officer Frederick Williams facilitated an all-day training certification course for OIG staff, which included instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillator (AED), and standard first aid.

MIAMI TODAY

WEEK OF THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 ●

WWW.MIAMITODAYNEWS.COM ●

On April 11, 2024, Miami Today featured Inspector General Felix Jimenez in an article highlighting his public service career in Miami-Dade County.

A copy of the article can be found at: <https://www.miamitodaynews.com/2024/04/09/felix-jimenez-inspector-general-works-to-deter-county-fraud-waste-abuse/>

Inspector General oversees diverse team to deter county fraud, waste, and abuse



The comprehensive article, which included an interview, also featured the following profile: “For decades, Felix Jimenez has dedicated his career to ensuring the integrity and accountability of Miami's government institutions. As the Inspector General for the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) since February 2009, he has spent 15 years overseeing the efforts of investigators, auditors, lawyers and contract specialists who work together to detect and deter fraud, waste and abuse within county government. Before joining the office, Mr. Jimenez was in the Miami-Dade Police Department for 28 years, when he worked as a supervisor in the Homicide Bureau, participated in over 500 death investigations, and was directly involved in several high-profile cases. He also led the department's Centact-26 squad investigating homicides involving drug trafficking organizations. Mr. Jimenez was later tasked with developing the department's Public Corruption Investigations Unit, where he would go

on to supervise investigations involving government employees, law enforcement officers, contractors and elected officials. He has also taught at law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, including the South Florida Metropolitan Police Institute and the FBI Academy, in the areas of public corruption and violent crime investigation.

Mr. Jimenez 's involvement in state and federal prosecutions has not only helped to root out corruption from government but has also raised awareness about the importance of transparency and accountability in institutions.

Born in Cuba, Mr. Jimenez moved to Miami at age 3 after his parents fled the Castro regime. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife of 42 years, four children and 11 grandchildren, and numerous hobbies from beekeeping to scuba diving.”

III. OPERATING BUDGET

The OIG supports its commitment that we shall be productive and cost effective, being careful to continue doing our part to spend frugally and to not waste economic and environmental resources. Annually, we collaborate with the County's Office of Management and Budget to account for the prior fiscal year's actual expenditures, current year projections, and develop the OIG's prospective proposed budget.

The OIG is funded by three distinct sources. This includes the OIG's proprietary fees assessed on County contracts, direct payments collected through Memorandums of Understanding entered into with various County departments where we have committed substantial resources, and General Funds allocated through the County's budget process. The availability of carryover (higher than expected returns on IG proprietary fees and unspent accumulated savings) also offsets the OIG's need for General Fund dollars.

The chart below shows the OIG's financial summary and comes directly from the County's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted Budget:

OPERATING FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	Actual FY 21-22	Actual FY 22-23	Budget FY 23-24	Adopted FY 24-25	Total Funding Budget FY 23-24	Adopted FY 24-25	Total Positions Budget FY 23-24	Adopted FY 24-25
Revenue Summary					Strategic Area: General Government			
General Fund Countywide	1,622	1,141	3,633	1,850				
Carryover	1,795	1,449	322	2,216	8,772	9,008	42	42
Departmental Oversight (MOUs)	1,032	601	807	782				
Fees and Charges	4,547	5,259	4,000	4,100	8,772	9,008	42	42
Interest Earnings	0	147	0	50				
Miscellaneous Revenues	23	1	10	10				
Total Revenues	9,019	8,598	8,772	9,008				
Operating Expenditures Summary								
Salary	5,282	5,463	6,168	6,249				
Fringe Benefits	1,680	1,733	2,189	2,320				
Court Costs	0	18	2	10				
Contractual Services	37	6	4	4				
Other Operating	126	157	248	255				
Charges for County Services	57	53	86	87				
Capital	44	55	75	83				
Total Operating Expenditures	7,226	7,485	8,772	9,008				
Non-Operating Expenditures Summary								
Transfers	0	0	0	0				
Distribution of Funds In Trust	0	0	0	0				
Debt Service	0	0	0	0				
Depreciation, Amortizations and Depletion	0	0	0	0				
Reserve	0	0	0	0				
Total Non-Operating Expenditures	0	0	0	0				

FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

DIVISION: INSPECTOR GENERAL

The OIG's principal objective is to promote honesty and efficiency in government and to prevent and detect misconduct, fraud and abuse in County programs and contracts. The OIG strives to ensure that taxpayers get a fair and honest accounting of their money and, where possible, seeks appropriate remedies to recover public funds.

- Communicates the Office's accomplishments through report distribution, website communication and public awareness initiatives
- Investigates, audits and inspects programs, projects and contracts to detect and prevent fraud, mismanagement, waste and abuse
- Provides all professional support to these functions including publicly reporting findings
- Publicly reports findings and initiates or makes civil, administrative and criminal referrals where necessary

Strategic Plan Objectives

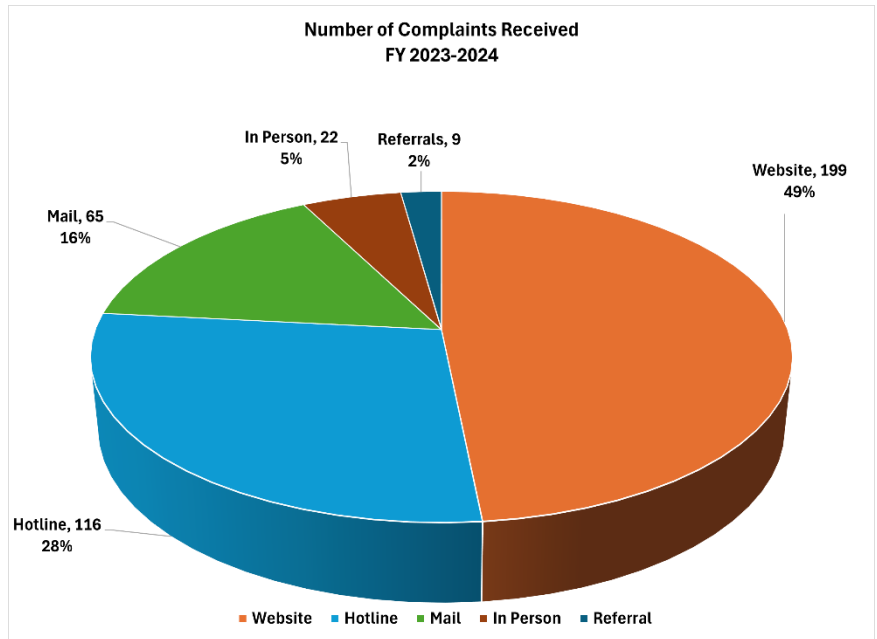
- GG1-1: Support a customer-focused organization by providing convenient access to information and services, and by ensuring processes are easy to navigate

Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
				Actual	Actual	Budget	Projection	Target
Promote honesty and efficiency in government	Complaints received*	IN	↔	409	508	450	450	450
	Percentage of complainants receiving feedback about initial disposition of complaint within 30 days*	OC	↑	96%	95%	100%	95%	95%
Increase the public's awareness of the OIG's findings by providing easy access to reports and information distributed by the OIG via the Internet	Reports issued*	OP	↔	9	25	10	20	10
	Advisory memoranda issued*	OP	↔	24	19	15	15	15
	Contracts/ programs audited and reviewed	OP	↔	53	30	35	25	25

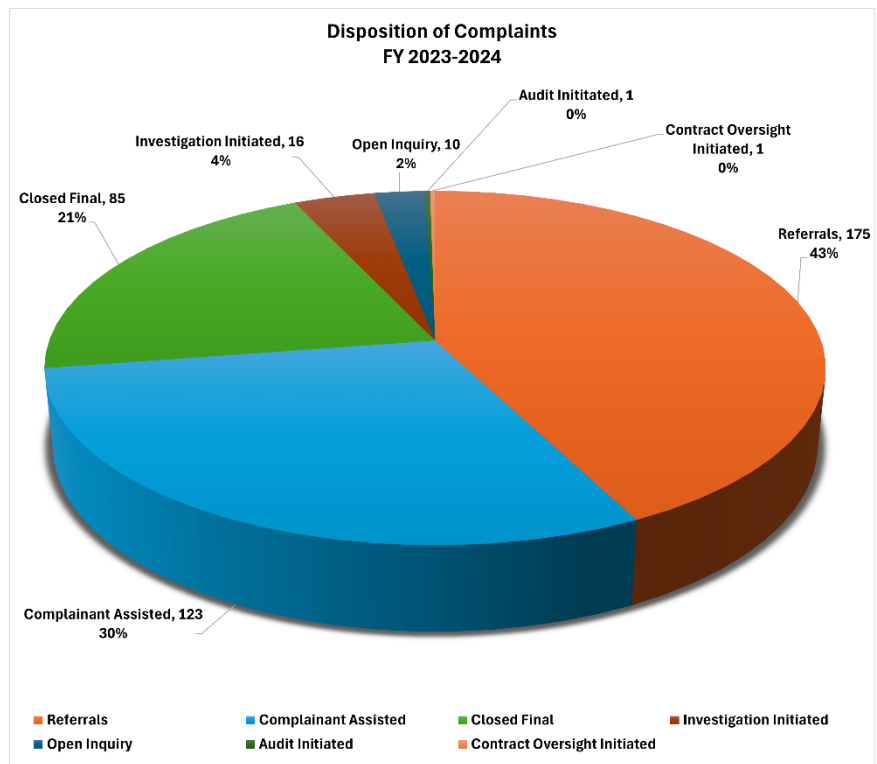
*FY 2022-23 Actual revised for the FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget due to more up-to-date information

IV. COMPLAINTS & DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS

The OIG received 411 complaints in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Of these, 199 were made using our website's on-line complaint form, 116 were received through our Hotline, 65 by mail, 22 were received from individuals who came to the office and met with an investigator and nine were referrals.



The majority of the complaints received, 51% were assisted by our office, the complaint warranted no further action, and/or were closed. 6% of complaints resulted in Preliminary Inquiries or Investigations, an Audit or Contract Oversight initiated. Of the complaints received, 43% were referred to appropriate County departments or other governmental agencies that could directly address the complaints. The OIG requests responses for any action taken on most of the complaints referred to County departments. Those responses are evaluated, and the complaint may be closed, the OIG may seek further clarification or may initiate its own investigation.



V. INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

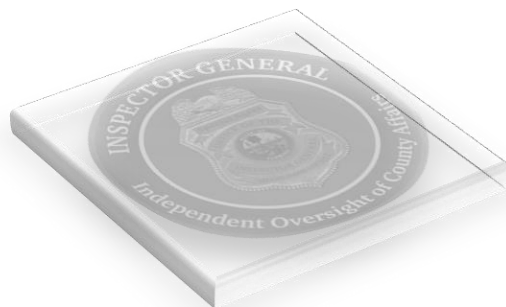
The Investigations Unit works toward accomplishing the OIG's mission by conducting investigations of fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct related to county programs, operations, contracts, vendors, and county employees. OIG Special Agents have a wide variety of experience including prior employment at law enforcement and regulatory agencies. They are skilled in conducting investigations of white-collar crimes, financial fraud, and public corruption. The Investigations Unit coordinates with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, the United States Attorney's Office, and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to leverage resources and fraud-fighting efforts. The OIG is also a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's South Florida Public Corruption Task Force. Our investigations often result in the filing of criminal charges; administrative actions, including the implementation of recommendations suggested by the OIG; and monetary recoveries.

The Analyst Unit directly supports the OIG's investigative activities through intelligence gathering and analytical support. OIG Investigative Analysts are dedicated to maintaining relationships with organizations such as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators, and the Financial Institution Security Association.

In addition to investigative support, the Analyst Unit conducts criminal history background checks of advisory board nominees as mandated by the Miami-Dade County Code. The Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners has created 96 advisory boards comprised of volunteers nominated by individual commissioners. As part of the appointment process, the OIG Analyst Unit conducts State of Florida criminal history background checks on advisory board nominees. In 2024, 95 criminal history background checks were conducted. The OIG Analyst Unit also manages the OIG Hotline that allows the public, county employees, stakeholders, and others to report suspected corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse.

The Investigations Unit conforms with the Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General and has demonstrated its adherence to those standards during three Peer Reviews completed by the AIG. In addition, the Investigations Unit also complies with the standards developed for the Florida inspector general community by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). The OIG's Investigations Unit has been re-accredited four times since its initial accreditation in July of 2010. The Investigations Unit will undergo both an Accreditation and Peer Review in 2025.

During this past year, the Investigations Unit completed numerous investigations and reviews. The following pages highlight some of the Investigations Unit's notable cases.



A. ARRESTS, PROSECUTIONS, AND SENTENCINGS

Conviction of Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner

A Former Miami-Dade County District 11 Commissioner was convicted by a Miami-Dade County jury on charges of corruption following an investigation conducted by the OIG in conjunction with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Unit. The former commissioner who had been suspended pending the trial, was found guilty of one count of Unlawful Compensation (a second-degree felony) and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Unlawful Compensation (a third-degree felony).

Arrested in August 2022, the former commissioner had been facing charges stemming from a scheme to use his official position to benefit himself. The investigation found that after his re-election to the Board of County Commissioners in 2016, the commissioner sponsored a revision to the Code of Miami-Dade County. The draft legislation would have assisted the owners of a supermarket and strip mall battling repeated fines from the County due to the number of cargo containers they could legally maintain on the property.

In the complex scheme, the former commissioner not only took \$15,000 in payments from the supermarket owner but enlisted the strip mall owner's assistance to negotiate factoring financing for the benefit of his personal employer. The OIG investigation found that the former commissioner's employer was having trouble paying its employees, including the commissioner. Although the code revision was withdrawn, the criminal act was completed as the law does "...not require that the exercise of influence or violation of a public duty... for which a pecuniary benefit was given...was accomplished." Section 838.016 Florida Statute. The former commissioner faces potential prison time; sentencing is scheduled in 2025.

Executive Director of Non-Profit Convicted of Federal Offenses

The OIG assisted the United States Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General (DOL-OIG) in an investigation into a wire fraud conspiracy to defraud the government of federal workforce program funds administered at the state and local level. CareerSource South Florida (CareerSource), the operating entity in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties that implements the various workforce development programs, filed a complaint regarding one of its service providers after noting irregularities during routine quality assurance monitoring.

The non-profit organization flagged by CareerSource operated a workforce re-entry program. The non-profit received federal funds from two sources, both of which passed through County-funded programs.

The investigation found a scheme by the organization's executive director and co-defendants to enrich themselves by diverting stolen funds to their personal and corporate bank accounts. The investigation found fraudulent participant files using the personal identifying information of others and fabricated wage records that were created to make it appear that payments were made to program participants employed at specific companies. The companies were owned by the executive director and one of her co-defendants.

The executive director and three co-defendants were indicted on federal charges of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States and Aggravated Identity Theft, all pled guilty. The executive director was sentenced to seven years in federal prison, two co-defendants also were sentenced to at least a year in federal prison and the third co-defendant was sentenced to probation. All were ordered to pay restitution in amounts ranging between \$35,000 and over \$350,000.

OIG Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Task Force Cases

The OIG participates in the FBI's Miami Area Corruption Task Force and has assisted in the investigation of CARES Act fraud cases committed by Miami-Dade County employees. The Task Force, in addition to the OIG, includes investigators from the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General (SBA OIG), the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Miami Field Office, and on some cases have also included the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations Division (IRS-CID).

The CARES Act, enacted in March 2020, provided emergency financial assistance to individuals and eligible small businesses, sole proprietorships, and independent contractors experiencing substantial financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the CARES Act, the SBA provided several types of loans such as the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs), and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans.

To obtain the loans, qualifying businesses were required to submit applications and to provide information about its operations such as the number of its employees, gross revenues, etc. Applicants were required to certify under penalty of perjury that all information in either the EIDL or PPP loan application was true and correct. The following case is the result of the OIG's collaboration with the FBI Task Force and involved the investigation of a Miami-Dade County employee who fraudulently applied for CARES Act funds.

Former Corrections Officer Pleads Guilty to CARES Act Fraud

A former Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department officer pled guilty to wire fraud in connection with his fraudulent application for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). The corrections officer submitted to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) a false and fraudulent EIDL application claiming to be the 100% owner of a sole proprietorship. As a result of the fraudulent submitted application, the corrections officer received \$150,000 in EIDL proceeds from the SBA.

The corrections officer's fraudulent EIDL application to the SBA grossly overstated the company's gross revenues as \$450,000 for the 12-month period prior to January 31, 2020, and the number of employees allegedly working for the company. The OIG also found that the request and disclosure forms required to be filed by County employees if engaging in outside employment were not filed. The corrections officer, who retired from the County prior to the commencement of the investigation, was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS OF COUNTY PERSONNEL

Outside Employment Activities and Misuse of County Resources by Division Director Results in Updated Policies and Procedures

An OIG investigation based on a confidential complaint revealed that the Benefits Division Director of the Human Resources (HR) Department violated several County policies regarding outside employment and misuse of County personnel and resources to further private personal ventures.

The investigation found that the Benefits Division Director was the owner of two B-12 Store franchises in Palm Beach County. The stores opened for business while HR employees were on a work-from-home status due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The investigation substantiated that the Division Director did, on more than one occasion, work for her personal outside business ventures during County work hours. In addition, the Division Director failed to comply with County policies for requesting and reporting outside employment. The OIG found that the Division Director used County equipment for her personal outside employment business and had a subordinate employee help with her private business and other personal matters.

An allegation that the Division Director improperly modified the insurance election and provided a refund of insurance premiums for a subordinate employee was unfounded. The investigation found the Division Director was authorized to make the modification, however, the required documentation to support those changes was never received by the County or the contractual insurance vendor.

The OIG made several recommendations which have been accepted. HR has made or is in the process of making, the following recommended changes: outside employment request forms will require employees specifically acknowledge certain conditions, such as no outside work to be conducted during County time or with County equipment; issuance of any insurance premium refunds to County employees will not be authorized prior to the receipt of all required documentation; and plan changes or refunds to HR employees will have to be authorized by the HR Division Director and the Department's Director.

An ancillary issue that arose during the investigation led to a proposed change in County policies governing employee responsibilities to report on and off-duty arrests in a timely manner. The OIG's recommendation, which will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners, clarifies and expands who must be notified of an employee's arrest, ensuring the Department is timely aware and can take any necessary personnel actions.

The Division Director was subsequently terminated from County employment.

County Employee's Felony Conviction Leads to New County HR Background Policies and Procedures

The OIG was contacted by a federal agency requesting confirmation of an individual's employment with Miami-Dade County. In determining the status of the employee, the OIG found the County's procedures relating to intra- and inter-departmental transfers of employees were lacking.

The employee, who was initially hired for an entry-level, part-time position by the Seaport Department (Seaport), had since transferred to the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) reporting directly to its Chief of Contracts and Procurement. His responsibilities at DTPW included preparing procurement documents and ensuring contract compliance of project documentation from initiation to contract award and implementation.

The OIG discovered that the employee had been the Town Administrator for a city in Broward County until he was arrested for defrauding the city of nearly \$500,000. He pled guilty to multiple counts of Organized Scheme to Defraud and Money Laundering and was sentenced to 12 years in State prison, followed by 10 years of probation.

Although his criminal history was not a bar to his employment with the Seaport, his responsibilities with DTPW had a nexus to the activity he was convicted of as a public official. As such, he should have been disqualified from the position with DTPW pursuant to Section 2-31(b)(4) of the Code of Miami-Dade County.

The OIG found that the employee had not been forthcoming with the County HR about his previous employment history and ongoing probationary status. In addition, the OIG found that the County had no formal policy or procedure requiring departments to review an employee's criminal history when changing job positions or transferring departments within the County. As a result of the OIG investigation, the County implemented new procedures regarding criminal history background screening and validation/verification of work history before a county employee transfers to another department or assumes a new role within the same department.

The employee was subsequently terminated from County employment.

Alleged Unlicensed Practice of Law by County Employee

The OIG initiated an investigation based on an anonymous complaint alleging that a former Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) employee held a position requiring membership in the Florida Bar (Bar) but was not licensed to practice law in the State of Florida. The complaint also alleged that the employee represented RER in legal proceedings and used the suffix "Esq." in correspondence and social media.

The OIG determined that the employee, who had graduated from law school but was not a licensed attorney, did not represent the County in legal proceedings and properly attended administrative hearings that did not require her to be an attorney. Based on the OIG's investigation the Human

Resources Department (HR) removed the erroneous requirement for Bar membership from the position's job description and pay plan details and changed the position's title.

The OIG also learned that prior to the investigation, the employee had received a Cease-and-Desist Affidavit from the Unlicensed Practice of Law section of the Bar, and had stopped using "Esq." in correspondence. The OIG did note that the employee contributed to a misunderstanding of her membership status with the Florida Bar.

The employee has since resigned from her position with Miami-Dade County.

Submission of Falsified COVID-19 Test Results

The OIG received an anonymous complaint alleging that a Miami-Dade Transit bus operator submitted an altered form that reflected she had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus in order to fraudulently obtain up to 80 hours of special Coronavirus sick leave available at the time to all County employees.

The OIG investigation substantiated that the bus operator did, in fact, submit a doctored document to her supervisors, which indicated she had tested positive for the virus on January 27, 2022, when in fact the actual test results from the captioned date reflected she had tested negative for the COVID-19 virus.

The OIG discovered that the bus operator did, in fact, test positive for the virus approximately four days later. She was then entitled to use the special Coronavirus sick leave, instead of taking her own sick leave hours. The bus operator resigned a few days after her initial interview with the OIG.

C. OTHER INVESTIGATIONS & REVIEWS

Investigation into MDAD Tenant Found to be Operating in Violation of County Lease Agreement Results in Monitoring and Compliance Improvements

The OIG initiated an investigation into allegations that a Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) tenant was not paying the correct amount of opportunity fees. In consideration of the ability to transact business at the airport, tenants and permittees must pay the County an opportunity fee. Under the tenant's agreement, the fee is a percentage of the monthly gross revenues exceeding the monthly rental. Although the investigation focused on the underreporting of gross revenues, the complaint also alleged that the tenant was operating beyond the scope of its lease agreement. The OIG found that MDAD had reviewed the incidents regarding the tenant operating beyond its authority and MDAD had imposed civil fines; although the OIG found that they were still outstanding.

The investigation revealed the tenant's underreporting of gross revenues and failure to pay required fees at the time they were due was ongoing for at least three years. The OIG found the tenant's underreporting of gross revenues was due to its consistent reporting of cash-basis revenues instead of reporting full gross revenues as mandated by the MDAD lease agreement. The tenant and MDAD used the required annual internal audit to determine and reconcile any shortfalls in reported gross revenues

at year-end. The tenant has paid the outstanding opportunity fee balances that totaled over \$124,000, plus interest and penalties.

Although the investigation did not find evidence of fraudulent intent, the tenant's practice is problematic as it subjects MDAD to delayed payment and unnecessary risk of non-payment of past-due opportunity fees. The risk is exacerbated due to the tenant's failure to timely provide the mandated yearly audits, and its expanded footprint at Miami International Airport due to a ten-year lease agreement entered into in 2022. The OIG made several recommendations to MDAD, which were accepted. The recommendations as implemented included a review of leases to improve reporting and payment compliance, an audit of the tenant, and a new and updated process of identifying unpaid fines.

Underpayment of Employees and Unauthorized Fees Extracted by an MDAD Contractor

The OIG initiated an investigation predicated on a referral from the County's Office of Small Business Development. Four employees of a Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) contractor advised that their employer misclassified their positions to pay them lower wages, and that the company's supervisor required employees to pay a \$100 weekly cash fee to remain employed.

The OIG investigation confirmed that the company misclassified the employees' positions and paid them at a lower rate than those contracted with MDAD. The investigation also found a scheme by the company's supervisor requiring cash payments from employees under threat of termination. As a result of the OIG investigation, the company reimbursed the payroll underpayments to all affected employees in the amount of \$14,011.90 and terminated the supervisor. In addition, the company reimbursed the affected employees for all unlawfully obtained funds by the fired supervisor in the amount of \$7,300. The OIG brought the matter to the State Attorney's Office, however, due to evidentiary issues prosecution was not feasible.

Allegations of Double Billing by an MDAD Contractor

The OIG initiated an investigation into a Miami-Dade Aviation Department Building Security Systems and Maintenance contractor. The investigation focused on whether the contractor (contractor #1) performed work at MDAD both under its contract and as a subcontractor to another MDAD contractor (contractor #2). The concern was that contractor #1 was billing both MDAD and contractor #2 for the same projects.

The OIG conducted a review of all contracts between the parties and determined that the services they provided function independently. Both contractors have individual contracts with MDAD, and a separate sub-contractual relationship with each other that did not adversely affect MDAD.

To determine whether double billing occurred, the OIG conducted a thorough review of select contractor #1 and contractor #2 projects to determine if MDAD maintained a system of controls to ensure that: 1) the appropriate approvals were being obtained; 2) material and equipment installed were verified and

operational; and 3) vendors were compensated based on contract terms with no duplication of tasks or billing.

The OIG reviewed documentation which contained the MDAD required authorizations, audits, and final approvals for each project. Once the projects were completed, the parties verified that all the hardware and software was installed for each project. The verification documentation was reviewed by the OIG. Upon the completion of the projects, invoices were submitted to MDAD for payment.

Although the OIG reviewed a limited number of projects, the OIG found no evidence of double billing and it appears from MDAD's established internal controls, redundancies, and segregation of duties that contractor #1 was not double-billing MDAD for services. The projects performed by contractor #1 for contractor #2 were outside the scope of the contract with MDAD.

MDAD Permittee Alleged to have Misrepresented Information

The OIG received an anonymous complaint alleging the owner of a Miami-Dade Aviation Department permittee misrepresented the status of the company's permit with MDAD to obtain a permit with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The company applied for a permit to conduct business within the cargo section of Miami International Airport (MIA) to conduct live animal transport services. It was also alleged that the company was subletting office space from an MDAD leaseholder, without authorization.

The OIG confirmed the company's permit with MDAD and that it had obtained a permit from the USDA. However, USDA was unable to locate the applications, therefore the representations regarding its permit with MDAD could not be substantiated. The allegation regarding the sublease was also unsubstantiated. The permittee has ceased operations and MDAD has cancelled its permit.

Property Conveyances by Former County Commissioner Questioned

The OIG initiated an investigation predicated on allegations of improper property conveyances by a former Board of County Commissioners (BCC) District Commissioner. The complainant alleged that the former Commissioner used her position to improperly give several County surplus real properties within the district to certain non-profit entities.

Florida Statutes and Implementing Order (IO) 8-4 give the BCC sole authority and broad discretion as to how and to whom it conveys surplus real property. Furthermore, the BCC has the flexibility to convey the property without competitive bids and the authority to waive any required advertisement period. The OIG's review of the property conveyances revealed that nothing was done improperly.

The allegation that the former Commissioner was improperly gifting County surplus properties to friends or business partners in violation of state laws and county policies was unfounded.

Shipping Weights of County Garbage Residue Questioned

The OIG initiated an investigation after being contacted by the Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) Director concerning a discrepancy in the hauling tonnage of “unders,” a residue by-product resulting from the garbage processing system. The discrepancy had a costly financial impact, and DSWM was concerned it may have resulted from the deliberate actions of a party or parties involved in the hauling process.

DSWM requested the OIG review the process of loading and weighing unders at the County’s Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), located in Doral, and transporting said unders to Waste Management’s Okeechobee Landfill for disposal. The OIG’s investigation into the weighing and shipping of unders from the RRF to the Okeechobee Landfill showed that manipulation of truck identification decals and other schemes by drivers, combined with lax weighing protocols, likely contributed to the weight discrepancies, thus resulting in overbilling. The investigation, however, did not reveal sufficient evidence to identify any party as criminally responsible for manipulating the shipping weights of unders.

The OIG found it significant that corrective measures implemented by the company managing the RRF and DSWM, at approximately the same time the investigation began, largely reduced the discrepancies. DSWM and the RRF management company were subsequently able to resolve the billing issues for the periods 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, resulting in the County being credited for the overbilled amounts. The facility has since ceased operations following a destructive fire.



VI. AUDIT UNIT



The OIG Audit Unit's primary objective is to support the mission of the OIG by conducting audits, inspections and evaluations to detect fraud, waste, and mismanagement. Audit engagements generally conclude with the issuance of a final audit report that provide the OIG's findings, observations, and

recommendations involving the audited subject matter. The final report also includes the auditee's response to those findings and recommendations. When questioned costs, opportunities for savings, and other financial impacts are uncovered, OIG auditors will make targeted recommendations to mitigate identified risks and recover public monies as appropriate. Most importantly, the OIG Audit Unit follows up with the County entities responsible for implementing those recommendations to ensure that appropriate action is taken to address any noted deficiencies and adverse conditions.

Audits performed are derived mostly from complaints received by the OIG or initiated at the direction of the OIG Executive Team when, in the course of other oversight work performed by the OIG, an area of interest is discovered warranting an in-depth audit of the subject. The OIG's audit authority is embedded in Article 9, Section 11 of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, which empowers the OIG to conduct audits and reviews of County contracts, programs and projects. More specifically, Section 2-1076(d)(6) of the Code of Miami-Dade County enables the OIG to conduct audits of County contracts at random. The Audit Unit also assists other OIG units by providing financial, accounting, or analytical research as needed.

The Audit Unit conforms with the Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General (Green Book) and the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS aka Yellow Book). The AIG conducted its most recent Peer Review of our office in October 2022 to determine compliance with the Green Book and the Yellow Book. The peer review was passed satisfactorily, meeting all relevant qualitative standards for the period under review. Our next peer review is scheduled for Fall of 2025.

The Audit Unit is comprised of a team of experienced individuals with various auditing backgrounds. All members hold the AIG's Certified Inspector General Auditor designation. Additional designations held by Audit Unit members include that of Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Internal Auditor, AIG's Certified Inspector/Evaluator, Certified Risk Management Assurance Auditor, Certified Government Auditing Professional, Certified Government Financial Manager, as well as Certified Financial Services Auditor.

Summaries of our reports issued in 2024 as well as some of our on-going audit activities are noted in the following pages.

A. THE OIG'S ON-GOING REVIEW OF POOL CONTRACTS

One of the main objectives for establishing pool contracts is to make the process for buying regularly accessed items or services simpler and faster to procure. Pool contracts also provide more contracting opportunities to a larger number of firms, and based on the estimated value of the procurement, pools allow for sheltered contracting opportunities to certified small business enterprises (SBEs). Through a solicitation for qualifications, potential contractors, suppliers, and vendors, are screened to develop a pool of qualified firms who will then compete to render goods and/or services, on an as-needed basis. Since 2021, the OIG audited and reported on one of the largest pool contracts established by Miami-Dade County—the Miscellaneous Construction Contracts (MCC) Program. Departments are able to access the MCC's pools to award construction contracts up to \$5 million without having to go before the Board of County Commissioners (Board).

The MCC Program 7040 and 7360 Plans

The OIG Audit Unit has initiated several audits involving the MCC Program. The MCC Program was historically administered as two separate renewable contracts to competitively bid smaller construction projects. In 2009, the Board, via passage of Ordinance No. 09-101, codified the contracts into a permanent program establishing a procurement vehicle to expedite construction contracting and to further enhance contracting opportunities for certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) – construction firms. Projects valued up to \$5 million may be procured through the MCC Program.

The MCC Program is comprised of the 7040 Plan and the 7360 Plan. The 7040 Plan is a 100% set-aside pool for SBE construction firms. The 7360 Plan is an open non-restricted pool for all construction firms, which may be used when funding sources prohibit procurement restrictions, such as a sheltered market, or when there are not sufficient firms available in the 7040 Plan. The Office of Small Business Development (SBD), a unit housed in the Mayor's Office, is responsible for promoting and administering the MCC Program. County Code Section 2-8.2.7.01 and Section 10-33.02, as well as Implementing Order 3-53, establish the guidelines and requirements for the overall MCC Program.

The MCC Program works as a pool contract where pre-qualified contractors—whether they are general contractors or trade-specific contractors—bid on construction projects. County departments accessing either the 7040 or 7360 plans solicit bids via Requests for Price Quotes (RPQs). The MCC Program is the primary contracting vehicle to award contracts for new construction, renovations, repairs, and maintenance projects with a maximum value of up to \$5 million. The MCC Program consisted of both emergency and non-emergency projects; all projects are tracked using the County's Capital Improvement Information System (CIIS).

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) Pool is accessed on an emergency basis when there are unforeseen, unanticipated, or urgent construction service needs where the protection of life, health, safety, and welfare of the community or preservation of public property would not be possible using any of the County's standard contracting methods. Once an emergency request has been identified and approved, the department contacts and subsequently awards the project to an ERT Pool contractor in CIIS in accordance with SBD's Contractor Rotational Policy, which requires that departments accessing

the pool to contact and award the emergency project to the next available contractor in the ERT rotation.

For non-emergency projects, both the 7040 and the 7360 plans provide for solicitations up to \$5 million. The RPQ contains an estimated contract value, a work scope, project name and location, contractor requirements, plans, and specifications. The RPQ also includes a bid form and may request that the bidder submit other ancillary pricing and other necessary information. Prior to the issuance of the RPQ, SBD reviews the RPQ for compliance with County guidelines, Florida Statutes, SBE measures, and the required contractor licenses (trade category). Subsequent to SBD's review and approval, SBD creates a bidders list in CIIS. The bidders list, which is thereafter attached to the RPQ, is based on the contract requirements, contractor rotational position, and SBE goals, if applicable.

RPQs issued under the 7040 Plan are not publicly advertised and only SBE firms registered under the 7040 Plan are eligible to bid. The number of SBE contractors solicited for bids is based on the RPQ dollar value. The MCC 7360 Plan is usually accessed when federal funding is involved, when the funding source does not allow for a set-aside, or when a 100% SBE goal is not attainable. These RPQs are advertised publicly and are open to all contractors; however, to be awarded, the contractor has to be registered within the MCC Program.

During 2022, the OIG issued two audit reports that examined Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's and the Housing Department's use of the emergency pool under the MCC Program. This past year, the OIG issued a third report involving the Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department's utilization of the MCC Program (see below). Additionally, the OIG initiated a fourth audit involving the Internal Service Department's utilization of the MCC Program. Fieldwork is currently in progress and an audit report will be issued in 2025.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS) Department's Utilization of the County's MCC Program



The OIG issued a final [audit report](#). The audit focused on PROS's compliance with the solicitation and award processes, its adherence to the ERT rotational policy, its compliance with the MCC Program's change order submission and approval process, and its compliance

with the County's Prompt Payment Policy. The audit also evaluated SBD's monitoring for departmental compliance.

The audit resulted in two findings and one observation. Finding 1 addressed the absence of proper documentation in the PROS emergency project files that could have indicated compliance with the ERT rotational policy. While three of the five project files tested did contain a copy of the Capital Improvement Information System (CIIS) rotation list, the awarded contractors were not selected from the top of the list. For the remaining two projects, the CIIS rotation list was not evident. While the inclusion of the CIIS rotation list in the project files is not a requirement of Implementing Order (IO) 3-53, it is the most authoritative document that can demonstrate that the rotational policy was adhered to. The OIG recommended that PROS's procurement staff should consistently maintain proof that the ERT rotational policy was adhered to by contacting the contractors in the order listed on the CIIS rotation list. PROS agreed and responded that saving a copy of the rotation list in the files is a good practice. PROS also advised that it has and will adhere to the ERT rotational policy by contacting the contractors in the order listed on the CIIS rotation list.

Finding 2 addressed PROS's blanket contract procurements and awards. Blanket contracts are established for singular trade, repetitive scopes of work such as fence installation and repairs, court resurfacing, roof repairs, etc. They are typically awarded for \$95,000 and jobs are tasked to the contractor via work orders. These contract awards are competitively awarded by having the contractors bid on line-item components that are then aggregated for bidding comparison among the responding contractors. In one of the five contracts reviewed, OIG auditors found irregularities in the bid evaluation.

One contractor's bid was incomplete in that no sub-totals were provided, and its grand total was approximately off by \$50,000 (\$84,606.00 vs. \$24,044.53). PROS staff completed the mathematical calculations for the vendor to arrive at a bid amount of \$24,044.53. Two months after the award date, 43 of the 54 line items were revised through negotiation and the grand total bid amount was revised to \$23,606. PROS procurement staff explained that the awarded contractor's bid was considered complete since each line item had a unit price listed. As for the lower bid amount after the awarded date, procurement staff stated that the bid was unbalanced, thus staff negotiated for lower unit prices. The OIG believes that an incomplete and unbalanced bid should have been cause to reject the bid in the first place. The OIG recommended that PROS procurement staff comply with both the County's and Program's requirements that require bid forms to be complete and award contracts to the lowest priced, responsive and responsible bidder. Revising bid prices after contract award was not allowed. PROS advised that it will ensure its procurement staff comply with both the IO and RPQ requirements.

Observation 1 addressed PROS' noncompliance with the County's Prompt Payment Policy, which requires payment to SBE contractors be within 14 days of receipt of the invoice on amounts not in dispute for services procured from the 7040 Plan. Over half of the 7040 projects' invoices tested were paid between 15 days and 69 days. The OIG did not test invoice payments under the 7360 Plan, which is an unrestricted pool open to both SBE and non-SBE firms, where the 14-day prompt payment policy does not apply. (Payments to SBE-certified contractors for work procured under the 7360 Plan must be made within 30 days.) The OIG noted PROS's recent improvement in its payment processing, and we are encouraged that this trend will continue.

OIG Inquiry into the SW 87th Avenue Bridge Over Canal C-100 Project

Predicated upon a complaint received by the OIG from the Village of Palmetto Bay containing various allegations related to a controversial bridge project, the OIG conducted a preliminary inquiry and issued a [report](#) into the one allegation involving misuse of the MCC 7360 Plan. Specifically, the complaint alleged that project costs were underestimated to circumvent a formal procurement process—outside of the MCC Program—which would have required contract award by the Board of County Commissioners (Board). Given the OIG’s on-going audit series into the MCC 7040/7360 Program, OIG auditors were uniquely positioned to expedite this review.

The review determined that when advertised, the project’s Request for Price Quote (RPQ) contained a construction estimate of \$3,076,803. An addendum revised quantities in the design plan, which reduced the project’s estimated value from \$3,076,083 to \$2,901,819. A subsequent addendum revised design plans with an increase in the beam sizes, thus increasing the project’s estimated value by approximately \$37,000 to \$2,938,492.

Six firms attended a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting; four bids were received. The lowest base bid was \$4,499,077. The second bid was approximately \$367,000 higher. The other two bids were over the \$5 million maximum allowance. The lowest bid, with the inclusion of the 10% contingency allowance and seven dedicated allowance accounts totaled \$4,992,393.81—just under the \$5 million maximum. Significant delays, attributed to a lawsuit filed by the Village of Palmetto Bay and permit review by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), of almost two years increased the contractor’s prices. Early in the delay, the low bidder was asked by the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) to extend its bid pricing, which it did. Eighteen months into the delay, given the uncertain timetable for USACE permit approval, the low bidder suggested that price escalation impacts be reviewed only after the permit was approved.

In the subsequent months, the USACE permit was approved, and the low bidder sent a detailed escalation price impact analysis for DTPW’s review. Negotiations between DTPW and the low bidder regarding the escalation impact ensued. Around the same time, DTPW in conjunction with the Office of Small Business Development processed the RPQ for award. A final negotiated price escalation of \$550,000 was agreed to by the parties. Because this change order will increase the total contract value in excess of \$5 million, this change order must be approved by the Board.

The OIG’s review concluded that the procurement process for the SW 87 Avenue Bridge Over Canal C-100 Project was consistent with the procedures contained in and the authority provided by AO 3-39 and IO 3-53. In accordance with these policies, DTPW is in the process of seeking the Board’s approval for the change order. The OIG continues to monitor to ensure that this change order is promptly processed.

The Equitable Distribution Program

The OIG has initiated several audits on departmental procurement of architectural and engineering (A/E) design services under the County's Equitable Distribution Program (EDP). Miami-Dade County created the EDP to expedite the procurement of A/E services for lower dollar threshold consulting engagements.

The program is structured to equitably distribute projects in all County technical certifications to the program participants through a centralized rotational system. Each firm's position in the technical certification pools is based on their prior contracting opportunities with the County. For the period under review, the EDP may be accessed to obtain A/E services for construction projects with an estimated cost up to \$4 million and for studies up to \$500,000. Recently, effective July 1, 2024, the construction estimate threshold increased to \$7.5 million, while the maximum contract award amount for studies remained at \$500,000.

This past year, the OIG initiated audits into four County departments and their utilization of the EDP. These audits will focus on each department's overall compliance with established EDP guidelines, including but not limited to department special requests, emergency awards, and change orders to extend EDP services. Fieldwork is currently in progress for these four departments. Additional departments will be selected for testing in 2025.

B. OTHER AUDITS, INSPECTIONS & REVIEWS

Audit of the Guardianship Program of Dade County's Processes and Procedures used for the Sale of Ward's Real Property

In July 2024, the OIG released an [audit report](#) of all property sales conducted by the Guardianship Program of Dade County (GPDC) for a 5 ½ - year period (October 1, 2017, through March 31, 2023). The genesis of the audit was a series of media reports concerning the GPDC and its sale of the real estate assets of its wards. These media reports raised alarms given the vulnerable population served by GPDC. Since the 1990s, GPDC has been designated a public guardian for individuals residing in Miami-Dade County that are unable to care for themselves having been declared incapacitated by a court of law (i.e., wards of the state). Without a family member or other professional guardian to take care of them, GPDC is the guardian of last resort for our most vulnerable citizens. A small percentage of wards owned real property assets, which may be sold for the benefit of the ward.

Upon circulation of the media reports, the County's District 5 Commissioner, noting the County's \$2.7 million annual funding to GPDC, requested the Inspector General review GPDC's practices and procedures relating to the sale of real property. This request was promptly followed by a formal request from the County Mayor to also launch a review into how GPDC sells the real estate assets of its wards.

OIG auditors evaluated the process used by the GPDC to manage its wards' real property assets, including steps to secure real property and determinations on whether a sale of the property is needed.

While the Florida Administrative Code (FAC), governing legal guardians, imposes factors that should be taken into consideration in determining whether property should be sold, once a decision has been made to sell the real property, neither Florida Statutes nor FAC Rules impose standards that must be followed in how that property is to be offered for sale. For this, the OIG assessed these transactions against the procedures described in GPDC's own internal procedures and guidelines. The objectives of the audit assessed whether:

1. GPDC's procedures for the solicitation and engagement of real estate sales agents, brokers, appraisers, and potential buyers conform to guardianship best practices and any other legal requirements for guardians receiving public funding.
2. The process used by GPDC to manage its wards' real properties, including the appraisal, advertisement, and sale of said properties, is conducted in a manner that befits its role as the court-appointed fiduciary over the incapacitated person and that its management and disposal of its ward's real properties are in accordance with Florida Statute requirements and FAC Rules.
3. The disposal of wards' real properties is conducted in a manner that precludes a conflict of interest with third parties participating in the sales process of the real property.

The report contained a total of four audit findings and 15 recommendations. Underlying these audit findings, the OIG observed a lack of management oversight, as a key supervisory position responsible for supervising the intake and property function, including the direct supervision of the three property coordinators, had been vacant for almost four years.

The first finding addresses the methodology used by GPDC to engage and rotate both appraisers and real estate agents when needed for the sale of real property. GPDC policy mandates appraisers and real estate agents should be rotated from a pre-approved list. That list, provided to the OIG by GPDC at the onset of the audit, consisted of 10 appraisers and 15 real estate agents. Audit fieldwork shows that 84.5% of all property appraisals were performed by three appraisers and 54% of the properties were sold by three real estate agents. Five real estate agents were never engaged to sell any properties, and five real estate agents not on the list were engaged to sell properties.

A second finding addresses the sale of ward property to investors. GPDC policy allows for direct sales, not utilizing the services of a real estate listing agent. These direct sales are permitted under extenuating circumstances, such as insufficient equity to pay a sales commission, hazardous conditions, presence of unauthorized occupants, etc. For the period under review, a total of eight such properties were sold to investors. GPDC maintains a list of 54 named individuals or businesses that comprise a pool of potential buyers for properties. Documentation related to the sale of these eight properties is silent as to how many investors were contacted and how the offers were received and evaluated by GPDC. While the process was verbally explained to the OIG, documentation in GPDC files did not support the stated process.

The third finding discusses the use of real estate agents to sell wards' homes and the agent's listing of properties on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Placing a property on the MLS augments the visibility of the property listing. Forty-eight (48) properties were sold using the services of a licensed real estate agent; however, 18 of these properties were not placed on the MLS despite the *Exclusive Right of Sale Listing Agreement* (listing agreement) requiring it. These 18 property sales generated \$216,078 in real estate commissions that were paid to the real estate agents.

The last finding discusses conflicts that are prohibited by statute, administrative code, and/or GPDC's policies and procedures. Actual conflicts concern two GPDC property coordinators. A property coordinator's wife owns and currently lives in a ward's property and a second property coordinator's friend and business partner bought a ward's home. Both property coordinators have since resigned from GPDC. Another conflict involved an organizational conflict by a GPDC Board Member who served as a title/escrow agent for four property sales, thereby representing both sides of the transaction. Last, we found vendor conflicts including a real estate agent who acquired an interest in a ward's home, and a vendor who is married to a GPDC employee.

During the course of conducting this audit, OIG auditors were stationed at the GPDC's office and not only interacted with staff members but also observed the day-to-day operations of the program. Though case management and the care of wards were not part of this audit, the OIG auditors noticed a dedicated staff who work hard to ensure the wards are well taken care of, are visited by case managers, and receive benefits they are entitled to.

The OIG's recommendations were primarily directed to the County's Office of Management and Budget (OMB)—the county department that manages the grant funding to GPDC. OMB implemented our recommendations to update the GPDC's funding agreement. The new funding agreement requires the GPDC to implement the report's recommendations and for OMB to monitor the GPDC's use of the funds provided by Miami-Dade County.

Review of Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) Services Utilized by the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)

In January 2024, the OIG issued an [inspection report](#) regarding our review of the potential impact of a proposed resolution mandating lump sum or cost-plus fixed-fee contracts for CEI services. CEI includes project administration, project monitoring, and the inspection of construction work to ensure it is completed in accordance with plans and specifications.

The review focused on DTPW's contracting practices for services. The OIG found that DTPW uses both in-house and external engineering firms to perform CEI work. The review showed that the *Time and Material* method for contracting CEI services provides transparency and control, whereas utilizing the lump sum contracts could potentially lead to reduced services. The OIG concluded that the proposed resolution would limit flexibility in project management and could negatively impact project administration.

While a lump sum contract might have perceived benefits, the OIG's review did not substantiate that it would lead to faster project completion. The proposed resolution has been deferred indefinitely.

VII. CONTRACT OVERSIGHT

The Contract Oversight Unit (COU) tracks stages of procurement, from pre-bid meetings to contract award, and conducts periodic oversight of certain active contracts to ensure all terms of the agreement are being met. OIG Contract Oversight Specialists will advise County administrators or issue memoranda documenting any observations and recommendations of improper, unsuitable, or non-compliant procurement practices or contract activities. Contract oversight observations can aid in identifying savings or cost avoidance; however, the primary purpose of the COU is to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in the County's procurement processes and contracting activities.

The duties and responsibilities of the contract oversight function are codified in Section 2-1076 of the Code of Miami-Dade County. Oversight includes reviewing the advertised solicitations and all addenda issued; observation of the evaluation, selection, and negotiation meetings; monitoring of related communications; and tracking the due diligence assessments of participating vendors. The OIG works to ensure that vendors, contractors, and firms interested in doing business with Miami-Dade County compete on a level playing field.

The COU is comprised of a supervisor and three specialists and overseen by the Deputy Inspector General. Contract Oversight Specialists have diverse professional backgrounds including budget and finance, policy and public administration, construction project management, and architecture. All members of the COU have attained the designation of Certified Inspector General Inspector/Evaluator (CIGE) from the Association of Inspectors General.

Input from the COU's contract oversight specialists, whether verbal or in writing, may occur at any step in the process. Contract oversight specialists, exempt from Cone of Silence's restrictions that limit communications once a solicitation has been advertised, are uniquely positioned to consider input from the participating vendors during the bid process. Vendors may contact the OIG to complain about bid specifications or qualifications, process irregularities, or to question selection criterion that appear to provide an unfair advantage to a competitor.

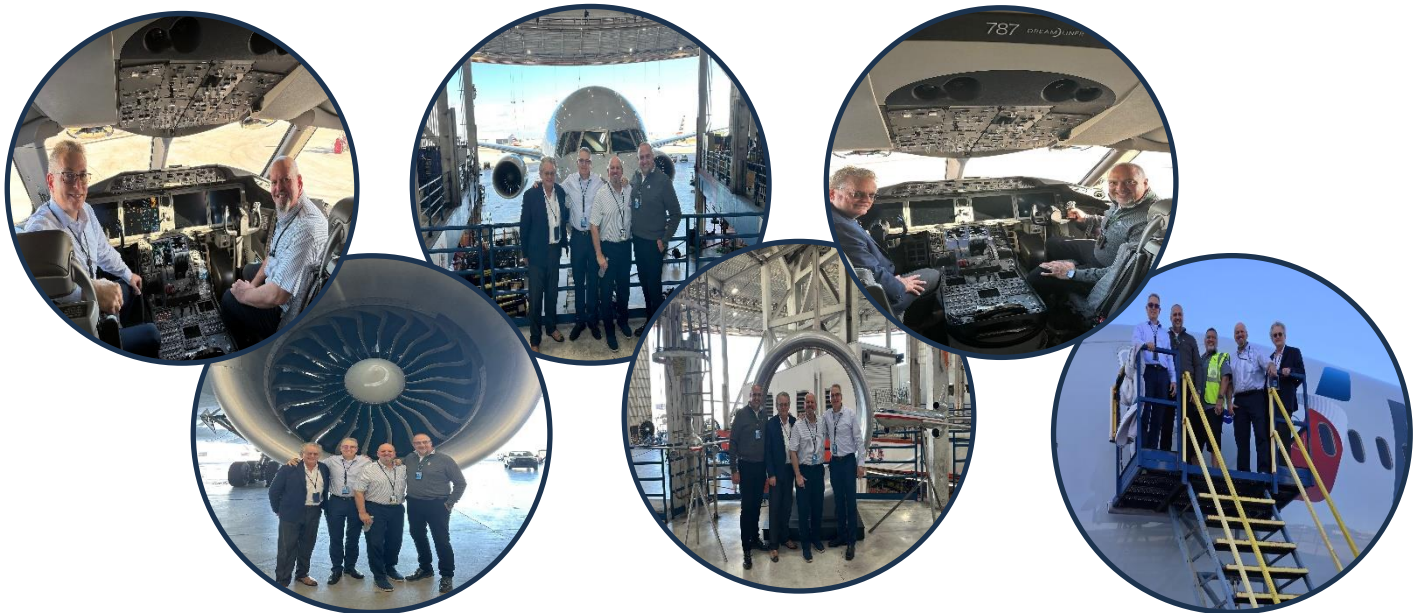
To protect the public's interest throughout the term of a contract, the COU may monitor contract implementation and contractor performance to ensure compliance with the contract's terms and conditions, validate expenditures, and verify that contracted deliverables have been received. For construction contracts, the COU may monitor adherence to specifications, threshold inspections, construction progress, schedule delays, expenses from the contingency allowance account, and change orders. The COU has earned a reputation of providing objective, valuable information that serves to enhance the integrity of the procurement process and contract management.

A. PROVIDING OVERSIGHT VALUE TO OUR MOU DEPARTMENTS & MONITORING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Miami-Dade County’s Aviation Department (MDAD), Water and Sewer Department (WASD), Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW), and the Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) have entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the OIG. The following pages highlight some contract oversight activities performed during 2024 relating to these four departments.

1. Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

In 2000, the Aviation Department became the OIG’s first MOU client department. The MOU was predicated on the passage of Board Resolution R-1203-99 that directed the Administration “to provide the necessary resources to the OIG to conduct a thorough investigation and review of existing contracts at [Miami International Airport (MIA)].” The OIG has maintained a fully staffed satellite office at MIA since 2000.



MIA Central Terminal Redevelopment – Phases 1 & 2

In May 2024, the OIG received two complaints regarding the procurement process to retain architectural and engineering (A/E) services for the Phase 1 redevelopment of the Central Terminal (RFP A23AV02) at Miami International Airport. The scope of work involves infrastructure modernization, improving accessibility, and enhancing security measures. This was a highly competitive procurement of a Professional Services Agreement valued over \$39 million. The complaint's allegations were: 1) the possible inconsistency in a Competitive Selection Committee (CSC) member's rating of proposals, and 2) that the top-ranked proposer may have misrepresented its principal's professional experience to misguide the CSC.

So as not to adversely delay the procurement process for this critical project, the OIG placed a priority on conducting our inquiries into these complaints. For the first complaint, the OIG conducted interviews, reviewed scoresheets, and the audio recording for the one CSC Tier 1 evaluation meeting. The OIG determined that despite candid remarks made by a CSC member, his scores and the overall the CSC evaluation process was consistent with the procedures contained in the project solicitation, as well as the authority provided by Implementing Order (IO) 3-34 and IO 3-39. The OIG did not find any grounds to recommend that the decision of the CSC be revisited.

For the second complaint, the OIG reviewed the background and experience information provided in the subject proposer's response to the procurement solicitation. The OIG conducted interviews and performed independent open-source research on the subject of the complaint and past projects worked on by her. We also obtained MDAD archived project documents from decades ago regarding MIA's original South Terminal Expansion Project as that project was cited as qualifying professional experience. The OIG concluded that neither false nor misleading information was provided in the proposal. The results of the OIG's inquiries into these two complaints were provided to all parties identified in the complaints and to the MDAD Director and Director of the Strategic Procurement Department. The OIG completed its inquiry into these two complaints in a timely manner so as not to delay the procurement process. On October 16, 2024, the BCC adopted Resolution R-924-24 to approve the award of this contract to the top ranked proposer.

When the companion project for MIA Central Terminal Redevelopment – Phase 2 (RFP A24AV02) was advertised the OIG determined it would be prudent to monitor this procurement. Currently, the Phase 2 procurement remains under the Cone of Silence. During 2025, the OIG plans to continue its oversight of this procurement, and ensure that the process remains fair, open, and transparent.

Baggage Handling System Operations & Maintenance Agreement

Following the award of this contract to John Bean Technologies (JBT), the OIG held meetings with MDAD staff and representatives of JBT to ensure compliance with the minimum staffing requirements contained in the agreement. MDAD had properly imposed penalties (reduced payments) in accordance with contract's terms and conditions for staffing shortages. JBT objected to the reduced payments, as it asserted the key performance indicators had been met. The OIG reminded the contractor of its obligation to provide narrative staffing reports in addition to the payroll reports submitted to the County's Office of Small Business Development. The narrative reports are required to assist MDAD with determining contract compliance with minimum staffing levels, whereas the payroll reports are used to determine compliance with the County's wages and benefits requirements. The parties have reached an understanding of the contract terms and the most recent invoices from the contractor have been approved without penalties. The OIG is satisfied with the implementation of this agreement and has closed this case.

Vertically Integrated Cargo Community (VICC)

On July 16, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved a recommended Development Lease Agreement with Miami Gateway Partners, LLC (Gateway) for the development of a vertically integrated cargo facility consisting of a four-level structure with no less than 600,000 square feet of cargo operations space. The fully automated facility is to be vertically integrated to achieve a minimum cargo throughput of at least 2.5 U.S. annual tons per square feet of cargo operations area.

The OIG has been monitoring negotiations for this project for several years. The concept was originally introduced by a joint venture involving AIRIS USA LLC (AIRIS) and CCR USA Airport Management, Inc. (CCR) as an "unsolicited proposal" that would be built with an investment of over \$1 billion of private funds, at no cost to the County. The OIG issued a memorandum on January 14, 2022, noting that the County Administration had failed to adhere to the policies and timelines established in the Code of Miami-Dade County for consideration of unsolicited proposals. As a result, Administrative Order 3-65 that governs these procedures was amended on March 29, 2022. Five months after the Board authorized negotiations, CCR (the financial partner) withdrew from the process. MDAD continued to negotiate with AIRIS for two years until a financial partner was identified.

Amidst concerns about the identities of the parties behind the Special Purpose Entity that would be entering into the Development Lease Agreement, the OIG made a formal request pursuant to Section 2-1076(d)(2) of the County Code for that information. Thirty days before the Board approved the Agreement, AIRIS identified the Vantage Airport Group US as the partner prepared to invest a minimum of \$400 million to bring the project to fruition.

The project is now in the 18-month Due Diligence phase. The OIG is continuing to monitor the progress Gateway is making to ensure the lease of 11.19 acres of valuable cargo space at MIA yields the increase in cargo capacity to satisfy the key performance metrics pledged in the Development Lease Agreement.

Passenger Lounge at MIA

Upon receipt of a complaint from Avianca Holdings, LLC, (received on November 1, 2021) the OIG began a review of the process used by MDAD for selecting and leasing airline passenger lounges at MIA. The Code of Miami-Dade County grants the administration authority to negotiate such leases. The complaint raised concerns about the integrity and fairness of MDAD’s process and alleged that MDAD was imposing burdensome and unfair requirements – namely that Avianca must reach an agreement with Priority Pass to admit their members into the lounge.

Though Avianca has a significantly greater number of gates and scheduled flights in Concourse J, TAP (Transportes Aereos Portugueses), Air Portugal, was preferred by the MDAD business development office based on its willingness to grant lounge access to Priority Pass members, a popular membership program among air travel passengers. The initial objective of this oversight assignment was to ensure that sound business principles and practices were utilized to develop a lease agreement that maximizes both the benefits to the traveling public at MIA and the revenues of MDAD. The OIG, over the course of two years, actively monitored communications among the parties. The OIG’s interest in this matter was partially due to the County’s commitment to “provide additional passenger facilities and services to accommodate the enhanced traffic and expected increased use of the Airport by members of the general public” during the 2026 World Cup (R-187-18).

Eventually, an agreement was reached with Avianca and TAP as co-lessees (held jointly and severally liable) for the subject lounge space. The OIG is satisfied the lounge will be available to meet the needs of the 2026 World Cup passenger traffic.

2. Water And Sewer Department (WASD)



WASD became the OIG’s second strategic partner when, in March 2000, WASD provided the OIG with office space for a permanent on-site oversight presence at its administrative headquarters building. An MOU with the department was executed in January 2001.

Since our creation, the OIG has always been involved in providing oversight and inspectional services for WASD’s capital improvement programs (CIPs), including the original pump

station improvement program in 1999; the High Yield Disinfection Program in the mid-2000s; and the current capital program highlighted by the federal Consent Decree filed in 2013, the successor pump station improvement program, and the State of Florida’s Ocean Outfall Legislation.

Throughout 2024, the OIG continued its oversight presence at WASD. The OIG has one contract oversight specialist designated as its primary representative in matters relating to WASD's CIP, as well as other construction, goods, and services contracts. The OIG has also dedicated investigative resources for WASD issues as needed. OIG staff have participated in meetings with the WASD CIP leadership team, procurement staff, operations personnel, and external program managers to stay abreast of the multiple and shared goals of the different divisions of the department. The following summaries highlight some of our more notable oversight activities.

WASD's Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Of the 81 capital projects identified in the \$1.9 billion EPA/FDEP Consent Decree Program, one more project was completed during 2024 resulting in a total of 62 completed projects. The completed project will eventually be integrated and maintained within the WASD Asset Management System. The OIG's contract oversight specialist is continuing to track the progress of the remaining 19 Consent Decree projects.

Similarly, the OIG continues to oversee the \$2.1 billion Ocean Outfall Legislation (OOL) Program with its 13 capital projects located at the North District and Central District wastewater treatment plants. The OOL Program now has 4 completed projects with 3 more under construction, and 6 in design/permitting. Almost half of the funding for the OOL Program is being provided by the federal government through low-interest loans.

WASD has prioritized expanding the capacity of the South District wastewater treatment plant to address the future projected needs of the community. As such, there are 8 critical infrastructure projects planned to increase the permitted capacity as well as the peak flow capacity of the plant. Currently, 2 of the 8 projects are completed and the remaining 6 projects are under construction.

Furthermore, in 2024, WASD continued to implement the septic to sewer conversion program. Two general obligation bond-funded projects were advertised for construction and the sanitary sewer system was expanded to allow approximately 400 properties to connect to the system.

In addition to the above capital programs, OIG contract oversight specialist monitored various procurements throughout the year, including multiple architectural/engineering professional service agreements for County-wide water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades.

To encourage competition and reduce costs for the County, WASD invited interested parties to its biannual industry forums, which provide information on upcoming design and construction projects that would soon be available for bid. The OIG maintained visibility during these forums to reinforce our monitoring and oversight of WASD operations.

Proposed New South Dade Maintenance Facility

In January 2022, WASD advised the OIG of its intention to restart a design project for a new South Dade Maintenance Facility on a county-owned site located at 190 block of SE 108 Avenue. OIG research determined that \$1.6 million had already been expended on prior architectural consultant fees, but the resulting construction drawings did not meet code requirements and were never approved by County zoning or permitting authorities.

In July 2022, a new procurement for the project was issued seeking a qualified architectural/engineering (A/E) consultant for the facility project. As part of the OIG's oversight activities, contract oversight specialists monitored the evaluation and selection process, which included conducting research on the project, reviewing the design criteria and technical specifications, and attending the competitive selection committee meetings and resulting negotiations.

By the start of 2024, an award recommendation to the top-ranked proposer was on track for ratification by the BCC. However, due to new information regarding the disposition of the existing site for the project, WASD advised that the item was placed on hold. Almost a year earlier, SG Cutler Bay, LLC had expressed interest in purchasing the subject property to build a Costco Wholesale store, which would supply jobs to the area. By the spring of 2024, the offer from the developer had become more favorable and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) directed the Administration to negotiate with the developer. It was agreed that the County-owned land would be conveyed to the developer for the development, construction and maintenance of a Costco Warehouse of no less than 151,000 square feet.

As a result, on May 7, 2024, with an estimated value and purchase price of \$7,177,225, the conveyance of the land to SG Cutler Bay LLC for a Costco facility was approved by the BCC via Resolution R-413-24.

WASD continues to evaluate alternative locations for a new maintenance facility.

Countywide Turnkey Advanced Metering Infrastructure Solution

In May 2023, the OIG began monitoring RFP EVN*0380 for the Turnkey Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Solution project. This procurement, which was advertised in the same month, sought a proposer to convert WASD's existing water meter reading process to a state-of-the-art solution that would leverage smart devices to improve the County's water operations. The AMI Solution would improve customer experience and efficiency, reduce recurring operating costs, and enhance revenue opportunities while hardening revenue security by transitioning to a monthly billing cycle. The procurement for the system is technically complex due to the geographic size of the County and number of customers in the service area. It is estimated to require replacement of 499,000 water meters at a cost of \$250+ million over 6 years.

In September 2023, three proposals were received in response to the RFP, but ultimately, two of the proposals contained exceptions, which were determined non-responsive by the County Attorney's Office (CAO). The CAO also determined that the third proposal was non-compliant. Additionally, a fourth proposal was received after the County deadline and was not accepted.

To cure these exceptions and to allow broader participation and increased competition on this procurement, the County—through a Board-approved resolution—authorized the rejection of all proposals and allowed the procurement process to proceed with an extended evaluation of the four proposals originally received. The Competitive Selection Committee (CSC) evaluated the four proposals, in accordance with criteria published in the RFP, with any exceptions taken by the proposers weighed by the CSC members.

Currently this procurement continues in the negotiation phase with the highest-ranked proposer and remains under the Cone of Silence. The OIG will continue monitoring the procurement to ensure that the process is not only fair and transparent, but that the final award is in the best interest of WASH and the users of the system. The final negotiated agreement will be presented to the Board as a designated purchase (i.e., bid waiver) for final award.

3. Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)

The OIG's MOU originated in January 2006 with the former Miami-Dade Transit Agency. Through its various iterations, the present amended MOU provides the OIG with reimbursement for audit and oversight activities related to work on the Transit Enterprise Fund—an enterprise fund of Miami-Dade County. For other OIG investigations, audits, and oversight activities involving contracts not funded in whole or in part through the Transit Enterprise Fund and which do not carry the quarter of one percent IG Contract Fee, the OIG and DTPW will confer to determine whether reimbursement is available through other sources of revenue.

Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS)

The OIG has been providing oversight on the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) project since its inception. The ATMS project involves upgrading traffic controllers and installing new video detection systems at the County's 2,900 intersections. Project implementation by the awarded contractor, Yunex Traffic (formerly Siemens Mobility, Inc), has been plagued with construction delays and integration issues.

On March 19, 2024, the BCC, via Resolution R-223-24, directed the administration to terminate the contract with Yunex and to negotiate a completion contract with Horsepower Electric, Inc. As a result of these decisions, the OIG continued to monitor the project but shifted its focus from project implementation to contract negotiations with Horsepower. OIG contract oversight specialists attended numerous in-person negotiation meetings, reviewed pricing proposals, and proposed contract language.

On October 16, 2024, the BCC adopted Resolution R-333-24 that awarded a \$199,919,376.66 contract to Horsepower Electric, Inc. for a term of ten years to implement the ATMS.

South Dade Bus Rapid Transit Corridor



OIG contract oversight specialists continue to monitor the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations strategically located along the 20-mile South-Dade TransitWay. Currently, 13 of 14 stations have been completed. Contract oversight monitoring includes attendance at monthly progress meeting and site visits along the TransitWay.

Due to delays in acquisition and installation of fare collection equipment at the new bus stations, the new service should be implemented later this year (mid-2025 projection).

Both the 60' battery electric buses and the station center platforms are designed for level boarding and the fares are to be collected as patrons enter the BRT stations. The OIG will continue monitoring this project through completion.

40' Battery-Electric Buses



Since issuing our first report on compressed natural gas (CNG) buses in 2019, the OIG has continued to monitor the diversification of the County's bus fleet, including its acquisition of battery-electric buses.

In 2019, the Board awarded Contract No. RFP-00546 for Battery-Electric Buses and Charging Systems to

Proterra, Inc. (Proterra). The contract authorized the purchase of 33 battery-electric buses (with chargers and training) up to a maximum of 75 buses, charging systems, and spare parts in the amount of \$72,176,322. The contract's capacity for an additional 42 buses would allow other transit agencies to "piggy-back" on the contract and/or enable DTPW to purchase additional buses. To accommodate this option, the contract allowed for inflationary price adjustments based on when the future orders were placed. DTPW elected to order all 75 buses/chargers, albeit, at different times. The OIG's review found that after expending the entire allocation, including a contract modification (increase) of \$1.7 million, DTPW was only able to receive and pay for 69 buses, 75 chargers, and three charging systems. Over \$900,000 allocated for spare parts were never ordered. There were six buses (valued at approximately \$5.3 million) that were ordered but not accepted due to lack of funds available funds. Due to the potential for a change order to pay for the remaining six buses, the OIG determined that an in-depth review of the purchase history was warranted. Significantly, we determined that DTPW overpaid Producer Price Index (PPI) adjustments by \$5.15 million using base and future dates not authorized by the contract's pricing terms.

We identified several issues contributing to the \$5.15 million overpayment. First, a significant delay in the initial bus order was not properly documented, impacting the calculation of PPI adjustments. Second, DTPW sought and received a contract modification to cover cost shortfalls, but the actual payments to Proterra exceeded the approved amount. Third, DTPW finalized a purchase order revision shortly before Proterra's

earnings report, raising concerns about undue vendor influence on procurement decisions. At the conclusion of our [review](#) entitled “Contract No. RFP-00456 for Battery-Electric Buses and Charging Systems; Ref: IG23-0007-O”, we issued three recommendations. The first was for the Administration to seek and obtain Board approval for a confirmation purchase for payments that exceeded the authorized amount and to secure a release of future claims. The second was to seek a waiver for the remaining six buses ordered but not accepted. Finally, the OIG recommended that SPD establish dedicated allowance accounts for inflationary adjustments.

Recommendations 1 and 2 were accepted as part of Board Resolution No. R-346-24, which ratified a one-time economic price adjustment of \$5,150,046.66. As to the third recommendation, the Administration stated that it will collaborate with the County Attorney's Office and the OIG to develop and implement solutions for better contract management and financial oversight. The Strategic Procurement Department issued new guidelines and standardized contract language in future solicitations to address extraordinary or unforeseen inflationary increases.

60' Battery-Electric Buses

On January 7, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved a negotiated agreement with New Flyer in the amount of \$175,594,365 for the manufacturing and delivery of 100, heavy duty, 60-foot electric buses, 50-depot based chargers, and two on-route charging systems, as well as spare parts, training, and tools. These new buses are to be designed for level boarding at the elevated platforms along the South-Dade TransitWay. The agreement provided for the delivery of 2 buses per week between July of 2024 and July of 2025.

When RFP-01966 was issued, it did not include the mast-arm pantographs for overhead charging or other connectivity infrastructure to deliver power to the buses. The County planned to solicit for these elements in a later bid for the construction of the operations center. The County later determined that New Flyer could also be a source for this vital infrastructure and found operational efficiencies associated with expedited delivery and warranty administration.

Noting that this would be a significant change order to the contract, the OIG met with senior DTPW officials to confirm these conclusions prior to the submission of the item to the BCC for approval. To validate the market research and determine that New Flyer's proposed price was reasonable, the firms competing for the construction of the operations center were asked to submit prices for the equipment, allowing the County to confirm the pricing offered by New Flyer was indeed competitive. The OIG confirmed the prices submitted in the construction package for the South Dade Transit Operations Center exceeded the preliminary offer from New Flyer. A Supplemental Agreement for this equipment was negotiated and presented to the BCC. On December 12, 2023, a “Request of Additional Expenditure Authority” in the amount of \$15,938,574 to acquire the equipment was approved.

The OIG has been advised that as of this writing, sixteen 60' electric buses have been delivered. Of these, twelve have been accepted.

4. Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)

The fiscal challenges confronting the Department of Solid Waste Management require constant vigilance. The OIG began the year by meeting with the Director and senior department staff regarding an unsolicited proposal to create a municipal transfer station and connected rail. The municipality was willing to lease land in exchange for reduced disposal fees, potentially weakening the fiscal strength of the department. The OIG registered its concerns about the potential fiscal impact to the department if it were to be approved. The request for the County to authorize the arrangement was never submitted to the BCC for consideration.

For the past two years, since the Superbowl Sunday fire that shut down operations at the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Doral on February 12, 2023, the OIG has been monitoring the efforts to offset the loss of this critical waste disposal operation. Historically, the RRF processed approximately one million tons annually through the waste to energy (WTE) plant. Despite the loss of this significant disposal capacity, existing contractual agreements for landfill disposal were able to scale up and process the entire waste stream without any disruption in service. During the past year one of the disposal firms began transporting waste by rail to a major landfill in Okeechobee County. On September 4, 2024, the BCC approved a new agreement for waste disposal to ensure financial stability through the year 2055 (2035, plus two 10-year options-to-renew).

Changes in leadership at DSWM and political headwinds have stymied efforts to settle on a plan to rebuild the former RRF or build a new WTE plant on a different site. The bond engineering consultant and the consulting firm serving as the design criteria professional and owner's representative for a new WTE plant have generated various reports and recommendations, yet no decision has been made. While the waste collection fee was increased to \$697 per household in the FY 24-25 budget, concerns are being raised that this increased fee may not be enough to cover operating costs. The OIG will continue to monitor this situation.



B. CRIMINAL JUSTICE & THE COURTS

The County's financial obligations and responsibilities for maintaining safety, security, and justice within our community extends beyond funding and operating the County Police Department, Fire Rescue, Code Enforcement, environmental and resilience efforts. Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida, and as stated in Section 29.008, Florida Statutes, the County is also responsible for funding many of the services required to maintain our justice system.

MDCR Replacement Jail – Site 1 Training & Treatment Center

In 2021, the OIG began monitoring a new design-build project for the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)—the procurement of Design-Build Services for the Master Plan Replacement Jail at the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center. The project includes demolition of the existing Training & Treatment Facility and the design/construction of a new Central Intake, Release, and Administration Building.

By the start of 2024, County negotiations were mostly completed with OHLA Building, Inc, the top-ranked proposer. However, since the construction industry had experienced significant supply chain-induced inflation to material and labor costs, it became necessary for the County to agree to a one-time economic adjustment increase to the construction bid price. This was based on the Producer Price Index (PPI). This price adjustment was not specified in the original solicitation and required a bid waiver to award the contract. During the same time, OIG expressed concerns to MDCR regarding the expanded use of the project's design criteria professional (DCP) on the Jail Site 1 project and a second jail site project. The OIG pointed out that the DCP's professional services agreement had effectively expired and an amendment to infuse millions of dollars and expand the work scope would not be compliant. Ultimately, the DCP's Jail Site 1 role was finalized in 2024 when MDCR agreed to have the DCP provide the project's design administration through a separate contract award and competitively advertise the remaining construction administration portion.

On June 18, 2024, the Board adopted Resolution R-540-24 rejecting all proposals received in response to the solicitation and awarded a contract to OHLA by means of a competitive bid waiver in an amount not to exceed \$228,733,431.13. Subsequently, in December 2024 MDCR issued a Notice to Proceed to OHLA commencing on December 16, 2024.

The oversight of this complex procurement ensured that the selection and negotiation process was fair, open, and transparent, and that the final product remained in compliance with the project's Design Criteria Package as well as the Department of Justice's Consent Decree.

New Civil and Probate Courthouse

The OIG has been actively monitoring the new Civil and Probate Courthouse project in downtown Miami since its inception through procurement, design and construction. Contract oversight specialists have participated in numerous meetings with County project managers, designers, construction teams, attorneys, and agencies with jurisdiction over the project. The active engagement in this extensive process has allowed the OIG an opportunity to effectively provide suggestions and support to the County in this new endeavor, which is scheduled to be occupied in the coming year. Monitoring will continue through project completion.

Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery

In 2021, the Administration requested the assistance of the Office of the Inspector General to review and monitor the progress of the mental health diversion facility located at 2200 NW 7th Avenue, Miami.

At inception, this project was undertaken by the County to *“free up jail space and provide an effective cost-efficient alternative facility to house the mentally ill as they await a trial date.”* In 2017, during renovations, the County entered into a sub-lease agreement with South Florida Behavioral Health Network (SFBHN) to take over the project, complete renovations and operate the facility. The remaining unspent Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond (BBC-GOB) allocation of approximately \$31.35 million, supplemented with an additional \$8 million from the Public Health Trust was also transferred. In March 2021, SFBHN provided *“Notice of Termination for Convenience.”* The County would now have to complete renovations and propose an alternative for its operations.

After reviewing and becoming familiar with all the factors affecting the successful implementation of this project, the OIG focused on the fiscal aspects of completing the renovations and more importantly, the future operations of this new facility and service since viable and sustainable sources of operational funds have not been identified. OIG’s contract oversight specialist monitored and participated in many stakeholder meetings to discuss the various options and alternatives for sustainable long-term viability of the Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery.



C. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES IN OTHER AREAS



The Seaport Department

New cruise terminals and renovations to existing buildings taking place at PortMiami were monitored by the OIG in 2024. Oversight activities include attending the various weekly progress meetings, internal County coordination meetings, and construction site visits. An established line of communication with the Seaport has permitted the OIG to have a positive presence in these projects and has continued to encourage the Seaport staff to request OIG involvement in future projects.

Realignment of North Bulkhead Berths 1-6

In 2022, the OIG began monitoring the procurement for a design-build-finance project to realign PortMiami's north bulkhead (Berths 1-6). This procurement has been marred by over two years of delay, and over 38 addenda have been issued. A major sticking point over this construction delivery method has been the financing aspect of this project. A sample contract was not presented until December 2023—two years after the procurement was advertised. This project contemplates the realignment of one berth per year during the off-peak cruise season. Construction timelines are critical to ensure minimal or no impact on cruise schedules. As specified in the procurement documents, the contractor would self-finance this multi-year project until completion.

OIG oversight activities include the attendance at individual negotiation meetings with proposers, internal discussions with staff regarding the preparation and development of proposal addenda and contract language. This procurement remains under the Cone of Silence.

MetroCenter Redevelopment

The OIG is monitoring a County-initiated, history-making project to transform the urban landscape of downtown Miami. The MetroCenter Redevelopment Project is an ambitious plan to transform the urban core of downtown Miami, the current home of the Stephen P. Clark Government Center and a host of County facilities. The project spans 17 acres of County-owned properties that fall under Chapter 33-11(c) of the County Code, referenced as the Government Center Rapid Transit Zone. The assembled parcels are subject to County regulations for zoning and permitting.

The MetroCenter currently has approximately 3.3 million square feet of County-owned improvements. As envisioned, the 11 primary sites are expected to be developed with 17-23 million square feet of improvements, including commercial spaces and affordable housing. On February 10, 2023, Phase I of the RFP was advertised, initiating the process to select a shortlist of firms to serve as Master Developer of this project. The chosen three firms will now compete in Phase 2 of the RFP.

The Master Developer will be responsible for all land development activities, including the permitting, financing, construction and delivery of all open spaces, utilities, infrastructure, drainage, roadway and right-of-way improvements required to make the Development Pads available for construction. The complexity of this project has required retention of outside counsel and consulting firms to assist staff to refine Phase 2 of the RFP. The competing firms have been encouraged to provide input during individual negotiation sessions. As of the close of 2024, eight addenda to the Phase 2 RFP have been issued. It is an ongoing priority for the OIG to monitor the competition among the firms, and the eventual award to the Master Developer.

Flagler Station Property

The OIG took notice of a property acquisition item published in advance of the December 12, 2023, BCC meeting. The item recommended the Board approve a negotiated \$205 million purchase for an office complex property. The average appraised value was \$110 million for the property. The OIG immediately requested a meeting with the ISD Director to review the matter.

On December 8, 2023, at 5:00 PM, the Inspector General, OIG General Counsel and a member of the Contract Oversight Unit met with the Director of the Internal Services Department (ISD) and an ISD commercial real estate professional to discuss the proposed purchases. The OIG was not satisfied with the explanation of the negotiated purchase price, even when factoring in savings from terminating leases, unique needs of the County departments, alternative sites and renovation costs. Before the scheduled BCC meeting, local journalists raised similar questions, and the item was deferred.

On June 4, 2024, when a revised item was presented to the Board for approval, the sale price had been reduced by \$23 million. As presented, the property is to provide space for multiple offices for various departments, including Regulation and Economic Resources, Office of the Property Appraiser, Clerk of the County Courts, Water and Sewer, and Solid Waste Management. There is also the potential of developing affordable housing on the site.

D. MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

During the past 12 months, OIG contract oversight specialists attended and monitored over 189 procurement-related meetings that included Competitive Selection Committee Evaluation meetings, internal strategy meetings, and negotiations meetings.

For major procurements and capital projects that the OIG monitored through procurement and award, contract oversight specialists continued monitoring through design and implementation/construction phases. In this latter group, we were able to increase our presence by monitoring over 75 construction progress meetings, ensuring that performance is consistent with the terms and conditions of the contracts.

The ability of the OIG to monitor 264 meetings during 2024 has been the direct result of the work transitions implemented since the COVID-19 pandemic. Although post-COVID sunshine meetings still require that they be held in-person, other strategy and negotiation meetings may be conducted virtually. This has provided greater bandwidth for the OIG's contract oversight specialists to attend more meetings by eliminating travel time.

E. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The OIG continued its educational outreach through active involvement in the training for Competitive Selection Committee (CSC) pool members. This training is mandated by Implementing Order 3-34 (Formation and Performance of Competitive Selection Committees) as a pre-requisite for all pool members (employees and non-employees) prior to actual service on a selection committee. During this training, Contract Oversight specialists present the OIG's role, authority, and responsibilities consistent with Section 2-1076 of the County Code in ensuring that the procurement process will be open, fair, transparent, equitable and in compliance with all rules and regulations governing that process.

During the past year, the OIG participated in:

- 12 Competitive Selection Committee (CSC) virtual training sessions for 387 employees representing all departments.
- 1 OIG Orientation and Refresher virtual workshop for 46 Jackson Health System (JHS) employees.
- 2 Vendor Academy workshops for vendors interested in conducting business with the County.
- 1 Procurement Academy virtual workshop for 136 employees that are directly involved in the procurement process.

In addition, the OIG participated in the Annual Procurement Expo sponsored by SPD. This Expo was designed to showcase the different types of goods and services needed by various departments in the County and how local vendors might access these opportunities. The OIG's presence reinforced our objective for an equitable, fair, and transparent procurement process.

VIII. SAVINGS, FINANCIAL RECOVERIES, AND OTHER PERFORMANCE METRICS

Identified Financial Impacts

In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, OIG investigations, audits, inspections, and other reviews identified \$1,473,803 in damages and losses due to theft, fraud, and abuse and \$11,182,551 in questioned costs. As a result of these cases, and others that began in earlier years, OIG cases in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 have given rise to over \$811,180 savings and funds put to better use, and have brought \$1,477,713 in recoveries, repayments, and court-imposed restitution.



Criminal Charges Filed and Criminal Dispositions Reached

In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, OIG investigations resulting in criminal charges filed against six individuals. The cases were prosecuted in federal court and resulted in sentences ranging from seven years prison to probation.

Additionally, directly resulting from another OIG criminal investigation, a prosecution filed in state court in 2022 concluded with a jury verdict against the individual charged. Sentencing of that individual is still pending.

OIG Reports and Publications

The OIG issued 36 public reports and 10 advisory memoranda during Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The reports include audit reports, contract oversight reports, and reports of investigation. Advisory memoranda include notifications regarding the closure of OIG cases, including announcements of arrests and sentencings in criminal cases.

IX. APPENDIX: CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY Sec. 2-1076 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

(a) Created and established. There is hereby created and established the Office of Miami-Dade County Inspector General. The Inspector General shall head the Office. The organization and administration of the Office of the Inspector General shall be sufficiently independent to assure that no interference or influence external to the Office adversely affects the independence and objectivity of the Inspector General.

(b) Minimum Qualifications, Appointment and Term of Office.

(1) Minimum qualifications. The Inspector General shall be a person who:

(a) Has at least ten (10) years of experience in any one, or combination of, the following fields:

- (i) as a Federal, State or local Law Enforcement Officer;
- (ii) as a Federal or State court judge;
- (iii) as a Federal, State or local government attorney;
- (iv) progressive supervisory experience in an investigative public agency similar to an inspector general's office;

(b) Has managed and completed complex investigations involving allegations of fraud, theft, deception and conspiracy;

(c) Has demonstrated the ability to work with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the judiciary; and

(d) Has a four-year degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.

(2) Appointment. The Inspector General shall be appointed by the Ad Hoc Inspector General Selection Committee ("Selection Committee"), except that before any appointment shall become effective, the appointment must be approved by a majority of the whole number of members of the Board of County Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled County Commission meeting after the appointment. In the event that the appointment is disapproved by the County Commission, the appointment shall become null and void, and the Selection Committee shall make a new appointment, which shall likewise be submitted for approval by the County Commission.

The Selection Committee shall be composed of five members selected as follows:

- (a) The State Attorney of the 11th Judicial Circuit for Miami-Dade County;
- (b) The Public Defender of the 11th Judicial Circuit for Miami-Dade County;
- (c) The Chairperson of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust;

- (d) The President of the Miami-Dade Police Chief's Association; and
- (e) The Special Agent In Charge of the Miami Field Office of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

The members of the Selection Committee shall elect a chairperson who shall serve as chairperson until the Inspector General is appointed. The Selection Committee shall select the Inspector General from a list of qualified candidates submitted by the Miami-Dade County Employee Relations Department.

(3) Term. The Inspector General shall be appointed for a term of four years. In case of a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, the Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners may appoint the deputy inspector general, assistant inspector general, or other Inspector General's office management personnel as interim Inspector General until such time as a successor Inspector General is appointed in the same manner as described in subsection (b)(2) above. The Commission may by majority vote of members present disapprove of the interim appointment made by the Chairperson at the next regularly scheduled County Commission meeting after the appointment. In the event such appointment shall be disapproved by the County Commission, the appointment shall become null and void and, prior to the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting, the Chairperson shall make a new appointment which shall likewise be subject to disapproval as provided in this subsection (3). Any successor appointment made by the Selection Committee as provided in subsection (b)(2) shall be for the full four-year term.

Upon expiration of the term, the Board of County Commissioners may by majority vote of members present reappoint the Inspector General to another term. In lieu of reappointment, the Board of County Commissioners may reconvene the Selection Committee to appoint the new Inspector General in the same manner as described in subsection (b) (2). The incumbent Inspector General may submit his or her name as a candidate to be considered for selection and appointment.

(4) Staffing of Selection Committee. The Miami-Dade County Employee Relations Department shall provide staffing to the Selection Committee and as necessary will advertise the acceptance of resumes for the position of Inspector General and shall provide the Selection Committee with a list of qualified candidates. The County Employee Relations Department shall also be responsible for ensuring that background checks are conducted on the slate of candidates selected for interview by the Selection Committee. The County Employee Relations Department may refer the background checks to another agency or department.

The results of the background checks shall be provided to the Selection Committee prior to the interview of candidates.

(c) Contract. The Director of the Employee Relations Department shall, in consultation with the County Attorney, negotiate a contract of employment with the Inspector General, except that before any contract shall become effective, the contract must be approved by a majority of Commissioners present at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

(d) Functions, Authority and Powers.

(1) The Office shall have the authority to make investigations of County affairs and the power to review past, present and proposed County and Public Health Trust programs, accounts, records, contracts and transactions.

(2) The Office shall have the power to require reports from the Mayor, County Commissioners, Manager, County agencies and instrumentalities, County officers and employees and the Public Health Trust and its officers and employees regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Inspector General.

(3) The Office shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of records. In the case of a refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, the Inspector General may make application to any circuit court of this State which shall have jurisdiction to order the witness to appear before the Inspector General and to produce evidence if so ordered, or to give testimony touching on the matter in question. Prior to issuing a subpoena, the Inspector General shall notify the State Attorney and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. The Inspector General shall not interfere with any ongoing criminal investigation of the State Attorney or the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida where the State Attorney or the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida has explicitly notified the Inspector General in writing that the Inspector General's investigation is interfering with an ongoing criminal investigation.

(4) The Office shall have the power to report and/or recommend to the Board of County Commissioners whether a particular project, program, contract or transaction is or was necessary and, if deemed necessary, whether the method

used for implementing the project or program is or was efficient both financially and operationally. Any review of a proposed project or program shall be performed in such a manner as to assist the Board of County Commissioners in determining whether the project or program is the most feasible solution to a particular need or problem. Monitoring of an existing project or program may include reporting whether the project is on time, within budget and in conformity with plans, specifications, and applicable law.

(5) The Office shall have the power to analyze the need for, and the reasonableness of, proposed change orders. The Inspector General shall also be

authorized to conduct any reviews, audits, inspections, investigations or analyses relating to departments, offices, boards, activities, programs and agencies of the County and the Public Health Trust.

(6) The Inspector General may, on a random basis, perform audits, inspections and reviews of all County contracts. The cost of random audits, inspections and reviews shall, except as provided in (a)-(n) in this subsection (6), be incorporated into the contract price of all contracts and shall be one quarter (1/4) of one (1) percent of the contract price (hereinafter "IG contract fee").

The IG contract fee shall not apply to the following contracts:

- (a) IPSIG contracts;
- (b) Contracts for legal services;
- (c) Contracts for financial advisory services;
- (d) Auditing contracts;
- (e) Facility rentals and lease agreements;
- (f) Concessions and other rental agreements;
- (g) Insurance contracts;
- (h) Revenue-generating contracts;
- (i) Contracts where an IPSIG is assigned at the time the contract is approved by the Commission;
- (j) Professional service agreements under one thousand dollars;
- (k) Management agreements;
- (l) Small purchase orders as defined in Administrative Order 3-2;
- (m) Federal, state and local government-funded grants; and
- (n) Interlocal agreements;
- (o) Grant Agreements granting not-for-profit organizations Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program funds.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission may by resolution specifically authorize the inclusion of the IG contract fee in any contract. Nothing contained in this subsection (c)(6) shall in any way limit the powers of the Inspector General provided for in this section to perform audits, inspections, reviews and investigations on all County contracts including, but not limited to, those contracts specifically exempted from the IG contract fee.

(7) Where the Inspector General detects corruption or fraud, he or she shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Subsequent to notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency, the Inspector General may assist the law enforcement agency in concluding the investigation. When the Inspector General detects a violation of one (1) of the ordinances within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, he or she may file a complaint with the Ethics Commission or refer the matter to the Advocate.

(8) The Inspector General shall have the power to audit, investigate, monitor,

oversee, inspect and review the operations, activities and performance and procurement process including, but not limited to, project design, establishment of bid specifications, bid submittals, activities of the contractor, its officers, agents and employees, lobbyists, County staff and elected officials in order to ensure compliance with contract specifications and detect corruption and fraud.

(9) The Inspector General shall have the power to review and investigate any citizen's complaints regarding County or Public Health Trust projects, programs, contracts or transactions.

(10) The Inspector General may exercise any of the powers contained in Section 2-1076 upon his or her own initiative.

(11) The Inspector General shall be notified in writing prior to any meeting of a selection or negotiation committee where any matter relating to the procurement of goods or services by the County is to be discussed. The notice required by this subsection (11) shall be given to the Inspector General as soon as possible after a meeting has been scheduled, but in no event later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting. The Inspector General may, at his or her discretion, attend all duly noticed County meetings relating to the procurement of goods or services as provided herein, and, in addition to the exercise of all powers conferred by Section 2-1076, may pose questions and raise concerns consistent with the functions, authority and powers of the Inspector General. An audio tape recorder shall be utilized to record all selection and negotiation committee meetings.

(12) The Inspector General shall have the authority to retain and coordinate the services of Independent Private Sector Inspectors General (IPSIG) or other professional services, as required, when in the Inspector General's discretion he or she concludes that such services are needed to perform the duties and

functions enumerated in subsection (d) herein.

(e) Physical facilities and staff.

(1) The County shall provide the Office of the Inspector General with appropriately located office space and sufficient physical facilities together with necessary office supplies, equipment and furnishings to enable the Office to perform its functions.

(2) The Inspector General shall have, subject to budgetary allocation by the Board of County Commissioners, the power to appoint, employ, and remove such assistants, employees and personnel and establish personnel procedures as deemed necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the activities of the Office.

(f) Procedure for finalization of reports and recommendations which make findings as to the person or entity being reviewed or inspected. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code, whenever the Inspector General concludes a report or recommendation which contains findings as to the person or entity being reported on or who is the subject of the recommendation, the Inspector General shall provide the affected person or entity a copy of the report or recommendation and such person or entity shall have 10 working days to submit a written explanation or rebuttal of the findings before the report or recommendation is finalized, and such timely submitted written explanation or rebuttal shall be attached to the finalized report or recommendation. The requirements of this subsection (f) shall not apply when the Inspector General, in conjunction with the State Attorney, determines that supplying the affected person or entity with such report will jeopardize a pending criminal investigation.

(g) Reporting. The Inspector General shall annually prepare and submit to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners a written report concerning the work and activities of the Office including, but not limited to, statistical information regarding the disposition of closed investigations, audits and other reviews.

(h) Removal. The Inspector General may be removed from Office upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of members of the Board of County Commissioners.

(i) Abolition of the Office. The Office of the Inspector General shall only be abolished upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of members of the Board of County Commissioners.

(j) Retention of the current Inspector General. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the incumbent Inspector General, Christopher R. Mazzella [¹], shall serve a four year term of office commencing on December 20, 2009, as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding approved by Resolution No. R-1394-05, and shall not be subject to the appointment process provided for in Section 2-1076(b)(2).

(Ord. No. 97-215, § 1, 12-16-97; Ord. No. 99-63, § 1, 6-8-99; Ord. No. 99-149, § 1, 10-19-99; Ord. No. 00-105, § 1, 7-25-00; Ord. No. 01-114, § 1, 7-10-01; Ord. No. 05-51, § 1, 3-1-05; Ord. No. 06-88, § 2, 6-6-06, Ord. No. 07-165; § 1, 11-6-07)

¹ Mr. Chris Mazzella, the County's first Inspector General and the incumbent when this subsection was enacted, retired in April 2013. In August of 2020, an Ad Hoc Selection Committee recommended Felix Jimenez to the Board of County Commissioners as the new Inspector General succeeding Inspector General Mary Cagle who served from February 2014 until her retirement in September 2020.

Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General

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