



Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez,
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: July 25, 2012

Subject: OIG Investigation Results in Criminal Charges Filed for Submitting Forged
Certificates of Insurance to the County; Ref. IG11-21

An investigation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG), in conjunction with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, has resulted in the arrest of Jesus Tamargo (Tamargo), the former office manager of Statewide Maintenance/Striping, Inc., (Statewide), on charges of Forgery and Uttering a Forged Instrument. Statewide was one of two primary vendors awarded portions of county contract Bid No. 8401-3/11, a one-year contract with three one-year options to renew, for landscaping and lawn maintenance services for Miami-Dade Transit. The forged insurance certificate was submitted in conjunction with the exercise of the last option to renew. Upon suspicion of a forged document, the case was referred to the OIG by the Internal Services Department's (ISD) Procurement Division (Procurement).

The OIG investigation uncovered that Tamargo forged the document and submitted it (by fax on March 11, 2011) to Procurement in order to obtain the contract renewal. Statewide's insurance policies had been cancelled for non-payment a few months earlier. Tamargo admitted to the OIG that he altered the document using correction tape to show that the policy was still in effect, and that he faxed the document to Procurement.

Tamargo surrendered himself in court today and was charged with one count each of Forgery and Uttering a Forged Instrument, both third degree felonies. As part of an agreement reached with the State Attorney's Office, Tamargo will participate in a pre-trial diversion program, pay costs of investigation to the OIG, costs of prosecution to the State Attorney's Office, perform 50 hours of community service, and will be personally debarred from contracting with the County for a period of five (5) years.

Statewide was terminated from the aforementioned contract for failing to provide a valid Certificate of Insurance, and for other performance issues. Statewide was also a Certified Small Business Enterprise performing work under the County's Miscellaneous Construction Contract 7040, but was decertified around the same time as these events occurred. (Statewide's certification expired and it did not seek re-certification.) Since these events, Statewide has not provided services to the County.

The OIG remains committed to prosecuting individuals who expose the County to liability, as a result of fraudulent activity. The OIG is grateful to ISD personnel for bringing their suspicions to our attention.

cc: Alina Hudak, Deputy Mayor/County Manager
Ed Marquez, Deputy Mayor
Ysela Llorca, Director, Miami-Dade Transit
Lester Sola, Director, Internal Services Department
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor