




Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
A State of Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accredited Agency
19 West Flagler Street ♦ Suite 220 ♦ Miami, Florida 33130
Phone: (305) 375-1946 ♦ Fax: (305) 579-2656
Visit our website at: www.miamidadeig.org

To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Jean Monestime, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: June 30, 2015

Subject: Defendants receive two years state prison for stealing from the Miami International Airport, Ref. IG10-51

Today, the former executive assistant of the Miami International Airport (MIA) Hotel and her husband pled guilty and were sentenced for their roles in defrauding Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) of over \$200,000. Ivy Evans-Maquilon was a former employee of H.I. Development Corporation, the entity hired by MDAD to operate and manage the MIA Hotel. Her husband, Jorge Maquilon, was a vendor who purportedly supplied the MIA Hotel with materials and supplies. The two of them organized a scheme whereby Jorge Maquilon, through his two companies, overbilled the MIA Hotel for the cost of goods and billed for goods never delivered. Mrs. Evans-Maquilon, in her administrative position at the MIA Hotel, was able to circumvent the Hotel's accounting internal controls and allow false purchasing paperwork to be processed and approved. Because the county-owned hotel is operated and managed pursuant to a management agreement, the funds to pay for these goods are public funds.

Mr. and Mrs. Maquilon each pled guilty to the first degree felony of Organized Scheme to Defraud. Ivy Evans-Maquilon also pled guilty to a second case of Organized Scheme to Defraud (a second degree felony) for her role in facilitating another hotel vendor's overbilling scheme. In this second case, Evans-Maquilon required the vendor to kickback part of the fraud proceeds to her. She netted approximately \$25,000 from this second scheme.

Each defendant was sentenced to two years state prison, followed by 20 years of probation. Both Mr. and Mrs. Maquilon were taken into custody immediately after this morning's hearing to begin serving their sentences. As a condition of their probations, each is required to pay restitution to the Aviation Department (approximately \$100,000 from Jorge Maquilon and approximately \$125,000 from Ivy Evans-Maquilon). They will also be required to pay costs of investigation.

The couple was arrested and criminally charged in July 2013.¹ The investigation was initiated by the OIG based on information provided to us from MDAD's Office of Professional Compliance. Throughout the course of the investigation, OIG Special Agents worked closely with MDAD staff to gather purchasing and accounting records needed to make the criminal case, identify non-compliant practices, and assess internal controls for the safeguarding of assets. Last year, the OIG, at the request of the MDAD Director, published a report detailing contractual violations and other abusive practices.² We are pleased to report that MDAD has embraced our recommendations and has implemented the majority of them. The OIG and MDAD continue to pursue matters of mutual concern and we appreciate MDAD forwarding its concerns to us.

cc: Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Emilio T. Gonzalez, Director, Miami-Dade Aviation Department
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit and Management Services Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor

¹ See the OIG's memorandum detailing the arrest of Ivy Evans-Maquilon and Jorge Maquilon. <http://www.miamidadeig.org/newsreleases2013/IG10.51MIAaddtArrests.pdf>

² See the OIG's Final Report. <http://www.miamidadeig.org/Reports2014/IG10.51MIAHotel%20Final.pdf>