




# Memorandum



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To: Ms. Alina T. Hudak, Manager, Miami-Dade County  
The Honorable Chairman, Joe A. Martinez,  
and Members of the Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From:  Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: April 15, 2011

Subject: County Vendor Arrested for Forging Documents Enters Plea

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Miami-Dade County vendor Nelson Ricardo Diaz (Diaz), 40, arrested last month on charges of Forgery and Uttering a Forged Instrument, entered a plea today. Diaz was charged following a joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO).

Diaz is the owner and operator of Diaz & Russell, a construction company that was a pre-qualified firm with the Miami-Dade County Miscellaneous Construction Contract (MCC) Program. The OIG investigation found that Diaz falsified numerous certificates and submitted them to the Risk Management Division of the General Services Administration (GSA). The forged certificates allowed him to remain qualified and eligible for County contracts.

Diaz entered a deferred prosecution program and will have to perform a significant amount of community service hours, pay costs of investigation to the OIG and prosecution to the SAO, and will be debarred from any County work for a period of five years.

The Inspector General is grateful to the Risk Management employees who alerted the OIG to the matter and for their cooperation throughout the course of the investigation.

cc: Ysela Llort, Assistant County Manager  
Miriam Singer, Director, Department of Procurement Management  
Wendi Norris, Director, General Services Administration  
George Navarrete, Director, Office of Capital Improvements  
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor  
Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)