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**Office of the Inspector General  
Miami-Dade County**

# Memorandum

To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
The Honorable Chairperson Joe Martinez  
Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella  
Inspector General

Date: February 24, 2005

Re: Arrest of Miami International Airport Contractor

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Attached is a news release relating to the arrest of a would-be contractor with Miami International Airport who submitted fraudulent documentation to the Department of Procurement and Management to ensure the award of a \$30,000 contract.

Alexis J. Riveron of AVY Group, Inc., Hialeah, Florida was arrested today following an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The OIG was notified by the Department of Procurement Management of irregularities in Riveron's submissions of the required insurance verification necessary for the award of the contract to provide window tinting at various terminals at Miami International Airport.

The OIG investigation revealed that on three different occasions Riveron submitted fraudulent Certificates of Insurance, which he admitted altering with his home computer. The County's Department of Procurement Management provided invaluable assistance in this matter.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager  
Dr. Carlos F. Bonzon, Interim Aviation Director, Miami-Dade Aviation Department  
Ms. Miriam Singer, Acting Director, Department of Procurement Management  
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services

Clerk of the Board (copy filed)



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

CONTRACTOR ARRESTED FOR SUBMITTING FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS

Alexis J. Riveron, a would-be contractor at Miami International Airport, was arrested today following a joint investigation by the Miami-Dade Inspector General's Office (OIG) and the State Attorney's Office.

Riveron age 29, of Hialeah, Florida was charged with three (3) counts of Forgery, three (3) counts of Uttering a Forged Instrument and one (1) count of Grand Theft stemming from his attempt to fraudulently obtain a contract for window tinting at Miami-International Airport.

According to an Affidavit filed by a Special Agent of the OIG, Riveron submitted a bid on behalf of his company, AVY Group, Inc., located at 760 West 22 Street, Hialeah, to provide window tinting at various terminals at Miami International Airport. Riveron's bid was successful, and would have provided him with a two year \$30,000 contract to perform the window tinting. The contract, however, was contingent on supplying the County's Department of Procurement Management (DPM) with a Certificate of Insurance by an insurance provider verifying not only general liability insurance, but automobile liability insurance for no less than \$500,000. That requirement proved to be the beginning of the end for Riveron, who never acquired the automobile insurance and instead submitted three forged Certificates of Insurance to DPM in order to meet the submission deadline and finalize the contract.

According to the Affidavit, Riveron added forged information to his valid Certificate of General Liability Insurance from Benejam Insurance Consultant Group, to make it appear as if he had obtained the required automobile liability insurance. DPM rejected Riveron's first fraudulent certificate on June 11, 2004, because the policy amount was well below the County's requirement and because the certificate contained no policy numbers. On June 16, 2004, Riveron submitted a second forged certificate which still did not contain policy numbers. This second certificate caused an alert DPM Procurement Technician to become suspicious of Riveron because the fonts did not match Riveron's previously submitted valid certificate and the numbers were not properly aligned. On June 21, 2004, Riveron again submitted a third fraudulent certificate with a bogus policy number, and again varying fonts.

OIG investigators verified with the insurance carrier that the three Certificates of Automobile Insurance submitted by Riveron were fraudulent. According to the Affidavit, Riveron admitted to OIG investigators that he used his home computer to alter the Insurance Certificates in an effort to obtain the \$30,000 window tinting contract.

The Inspector General noted that contractors who submit fraudulent documents to obtain County contracts must be seriously dealt with because they undermine the quality of services that the County seeks to provide its citizens and they expose the County to serious liabilities.

Copies of the Arrest Warrant and Arrest Affidavit are available at the Inspector General's Office, 19 West Flagler Street, Suite, 220, telephone 305-375-1946 and at the State Attorney's Office, c/o Ed Griffith, 1350 N.W. 12 Avenue, telephone 305-547-0532.

Media Opportunity – Inspector General Mazzella will be available for a media opportunity today, between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., at the OIG office.