




# Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor, Miami-Dade County  
The Honorable Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Chairman  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General 

Date: November 2, 2022

Subject: County Contractor Sentenced on Felony Fraud Charges Related to  
Two County Construction Projects, Ref. IG 19-0002-I

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ABC Construction, Inc., (ABC), its owner/president Jorge Gonzalez, and ABC’s office manager were sentenced yesterday on charges related to work on two Miami-Dade County construction contracts—the Joseph Caleb Center Parking Garage Project and the University of Miami Metrorail Station Pedestrian Overpass Project. The criminal charges involved the submission of fraudulent insurance documents needed to satisfy the contracts’ insurance coverage requirements and fraudulent insurance receipts prepared and submitted to the County as a means of seeking reimbursement.

The joint Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and State Attorney’s Office (SAO) investigation began with an initial referral from the Small Business Division of the Internal Services Department (SBD/ISD) involving issues related to non-payment of responsible wages and the possible submission of fraudulent documents related to the Caleb Parking Garage Project, a \$10.5 million contract (Z00051-PG GOB ESP). The OIG was actively investigating these allegations, when the Department of Transportation and Public works (DTPW) referred to the OIG a suspected fraudulent insurance receipt submitted by ABC. The suspicious receipt was submitted as proof of payment in an attempt to obtain contract funding on the Pedestrian Overpass project, a \$3.8 million contract (CICC 7360 Plan, RPQ No. 265910-R, Project No. CIP010).

The investigation determined that ABC appropriated the identity of a legitimate insurance agency and presented the fraudulent documentation as genuine invoices.

The corporation, ABC through is personal representative, Mr. Jorge Gonzalez, pled guilty to one count of Organized Scheme to Defraud, a first degree felony; two

counts of Criminal Use of Personal Identification, second degree felonies; and one count of Uttering a Forged Instrument, a third degree felony. The corporation was placed on probation for five years. The Court also sentenced the company to a 5-year Order of Debarment prohibiting its personal representative, Jorge Gonzalez, from contracting or otherwise doing business with Miami-Dade County. Other monetary obligations, satisfied at the taking of the guilty plea, include \$57,288 in restitution to Miami-Dade County associated with the Pedestrian Overpass Project, costs of investigation to the OIG, and a donation to the Denise Moon Fund.

Defendant Jorge Gonzalez and ABC's office manager, Laura Gonzalez (no relation), each pled to one count of Fraudulent Alteration of Credit Card Invoices. ABC's owner was sentenced to six months house arrest followed by six months probation. The officer manager received twelve months probation.

Since 2001, ABC received over \$60 million in work either as a prime or subcontractor on County contracts. Both the Caleb Center Parking Garage and the UM Station Pedestrian Overpass are in use. The OIG appreciates the assistance of SBD/ISD and DTPW during this investigation.

cc: Edward Marquez, Chief Financial Officer  
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