




Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General 

Date: May 19, 2023

Subject: Criminal Charges filed against County Contractor for Making False Statements to Obtain PortMiami Contracts Pursuant to Vendor Pool 9427-1/21-1, Passenger Loading Bridges-Prequal; Ref. IG20-0013-I

On today's date, Allan Mairena, the owner and operator of Halmag Solutions, Inc, (Halmag), a Miami-Dade County vendor, settled criminal charges filed against him in connection with the Seaport Department's (PortMiami's) Invitation to Quote (ITQ) No. 01-19. The ITQ was only open to members of a pre-approved vendor pool (9427-1/21-1) maintained by the Strategic Procurement Department (SPD). Mr. Mairena's company, Halmag, was a member of the vendor pool. Halmag was awarded the PortMiami contract to assemble and erect two passenger loading bridges (aka passenger boarding bridges or gangways) at PortMiami. Mr. Mairena was charged with one count of making False Official Statements with the intent to mislead a public servant in violation of Florida State Statute 837.06, a misdemeanor of the second degree.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted the investigation jointly with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO). OIG investigators learned that at the time Mr. Mairena applied for the pre-approved vendor pool via Halmag, he was a Public Health Trust (PHT) Jackson Health System (JHS) employee. Prior to his position at JHS, Mr. Mairena was a county employee at PortMiami. In his bid for the vendor pool, Mr. Mairena listed a fictitious employee as Halmag's Project Manager. Mr. Mairena also provided false information regarding three other Halmag key employees' work experience and qualifications. Officials at SPD stated that had they known Halmag's information in its vendor pool application was false, the application would never have been approved.

As a pre-approved pool vendor, Halmag was able to obtain numerous contracts at PortMiami, valued at over \$5 million. The first contract, awarded in July 2019, was the aforementioned ITQ. According to then PortMiami Chief of Contracts, Procurement, and Materials Management, had she known that Halmag supplied false information to gain access to the vendor pool, she would have disqualified Halmag from this procurement and rebid the contract. Halmag was paid over \$2.7 million for the work.

On today's date, Mr. Mairena entered into a settlement agreement with the SAO. Mr. Mairena agreed that Halmag is debarred from contracting with Miami-Dade County for a period of two years. In addition, Mr. Mairena paid the costs of investigation and prosecution, and entered a program for first time criminal offenders, which he must successfully complete.

The OIG appreciates the assistance of the Seaport Department and SPD and is grateful for the continued collaboration with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

cc: Hydi Webb, Director, Miami-Dade Seaport Department
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
Namita Uppal, Director, Strategic Procurement Department
Edward Marquez, Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Mayor
Duane Mathis, Interim Director, Audit and Management Services Department
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budget