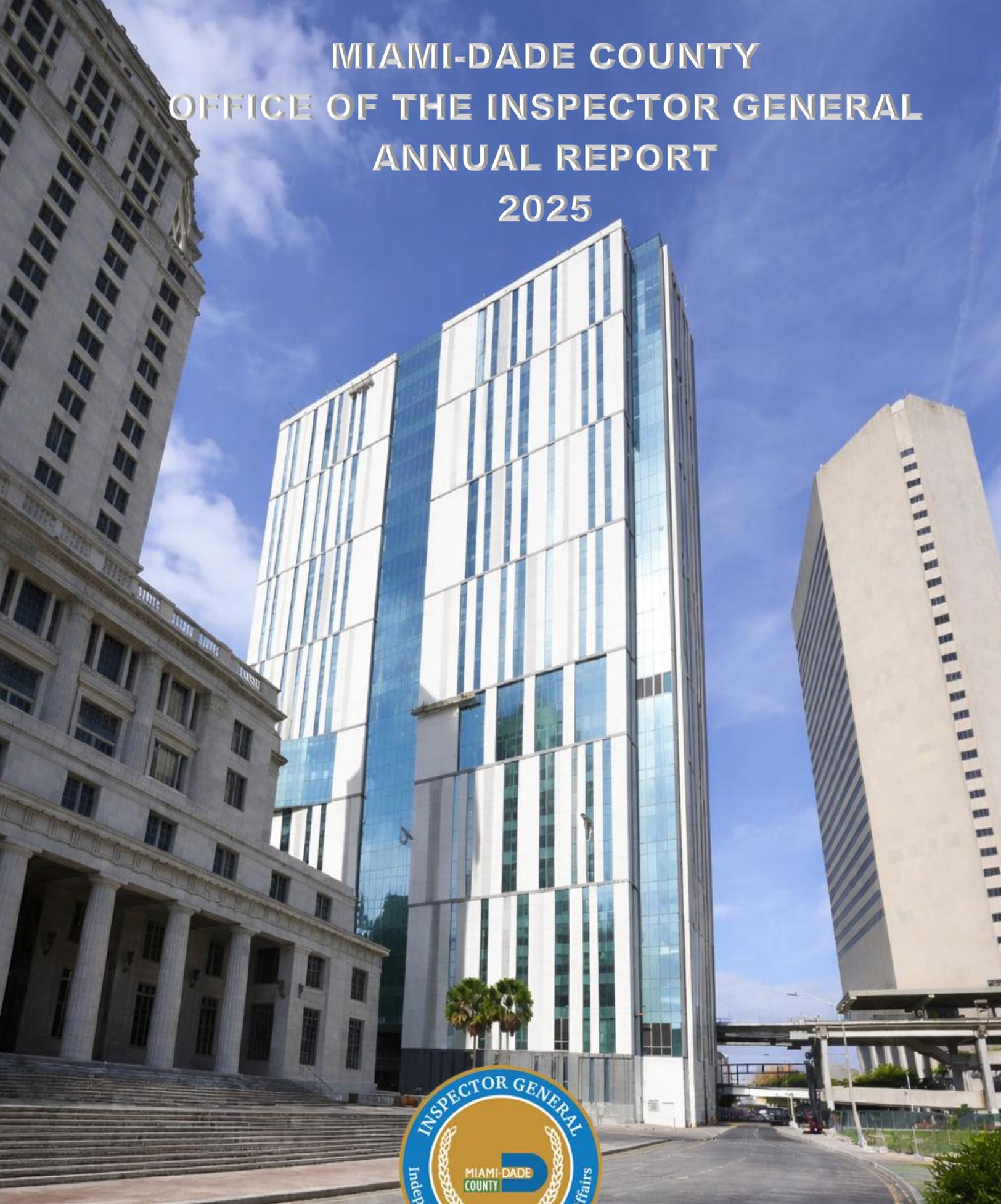


# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025



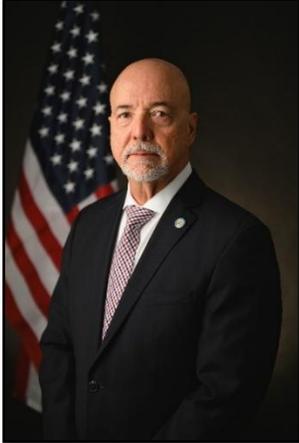
**PROMOTING INTEGRITY**

**PREVENTING FRAUD**

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## MESSAGE FROM YOUR INSPECTOR GENERAL



It is my pleasure to present the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report of the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General.

The dedicated professionals of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) are highly qualified to detect, investigate, and prevent fraud, waste, mismanagement, misconduct, and abuse of power within Miami-Dade County government. Our team brings deep, institutional knowledge of County contracting, procurement, and operating systems, allowing us to identify risks and inefficiencies that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Our jurisdiction is limited exclusively to Miami-Dade County government. We do not oversee the County's 34 municipalities. Several municipalities have established their own inspectors general, including Miami Beach, which has had an IG for the past seven years, as well as the Cities of Miami and Doral, which have more

recently created IG offices.

Inspectors general are not one-size-fits-all. Some offices focus primarily on investigations, others on audits, and some operate as law enforcement agencies. While approaches may vary, all inspectors general share a common purpose: identifying inefficiencies, misconduct, and mismanagement within government operations.

A defining feature of our work is that we are a complaint-driven agency. Each year, we receive more than 400 complaints, including whistleblower disclosures from County employees and vendors doing business with the County. Approximately 95 percent of our investigations, audits, and reviews originate from these complaints, ensuring that our work directly reflects the concerns and observations of the public and the workforce we serve.

Detecting and investigating fraud is a core part of our mission, and fraud is, by nature, criminal. While the OIG is a criminal justice agency, we are not a law enforcement agency. When our work uncovers evidence of criminal conduct, we refer those matters to the appropriate law enforcement authorities, such as the State Attorney's Office, and collaborate as needed. In all of our work—whether investigative or audit-related—we also make recommendations to strengthen policies, improve processes, and reduce the likelihood of future misconduct.

We measure our impact in part through financial reporting. In nearly every investigation, audit, or review, we assess and report the financial impact, including questioned costs, damages, and losses stemming from theft, fraud, or abuse, as well as savings and funds put to better use. Most importantly, we track recoveries of stolen funds. Since its inception, the OIG has recovered more than \$173 million and identified a combined total of \$325 million in questioned costs, damages, savings, and funds that could have been put to better use. Our work is not solely about holding individuals accountable—it is also about building a stronger, more efficient, and more transparent government for the future.

While criminal investigations often attract public attention, the OIG's work extends far beyond them. We conduct audits and reviews and maintain a robust contract oversight unit that provides real-time monitoring of some of the County's largest and most complex projects.

We regularly report to the Board of County Commissioners and the Mayor on our activities, and this annual report—required by ordinance—offers a comprehensive overview of the full scope of our work throughout the year.

Sincerely,  
  
Felix Jimenez

## Miami-Dade County Officials

Daniella Levine Cava  
*Mayor*

### Board of County Commissioners

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman

Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, District 1

Marleine Bastien, District 2

Keon Hardemon, District 3

Micky Steinberg, District 4

Vicki L. Lopez, District 5

Natalie Milian Orbis, District 6

Raquel A. Regalado, District 7

Danielle Cohen Higgins, District 8

Kionne L. McGhee, District 9

Anthony Rodriguez, District 10

Roberto J. Gonzalez, District 11

Juan Carlos Bermudez, District 12

René Garcia, District 13

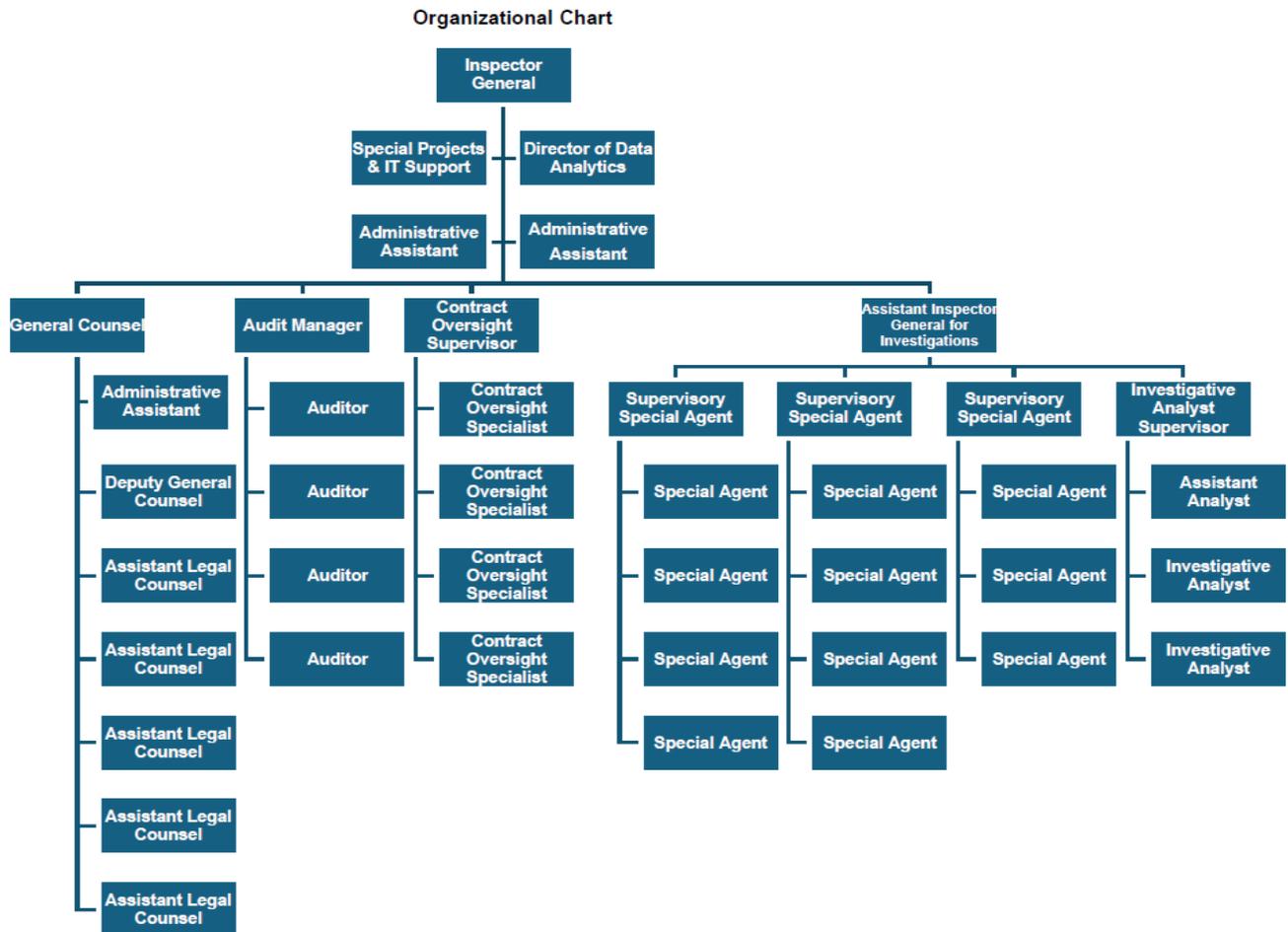
Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Esq.  
Clerk of the Courts and Comptroller

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# I. ABOUT THE OIG

Autonomous and independent, the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was created by the Board of County Commissioners, and now codified in the County’s Home Rule Charter, to serve as a watchdog over County practices. Through three distinct yet overlapping functions – audits, investigations, and contract oversight – the OIG investigates fraud, waste, and abuse, rendering findings based on facts and evidence.



## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

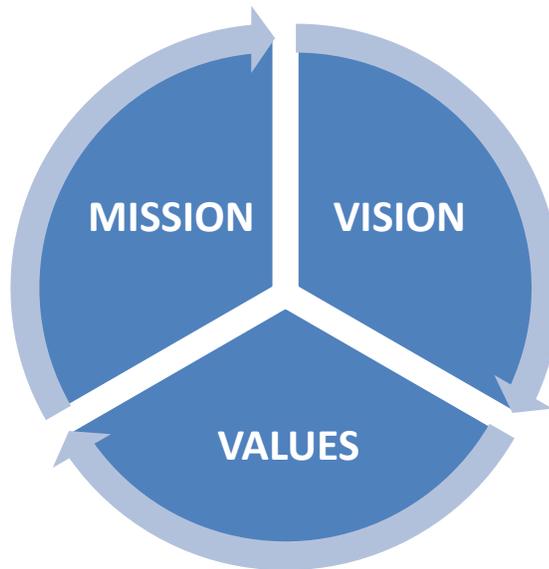
- **Fraud Prevention:** Proactive measures to detect and prevent fraudulent activities.
- **Waste Reduction:** Identifying and eliminating wasteful spending practices.
- **Abuse Mitigation:** Investigating and addressing instances of abuse of power or resources.
- **Corruption Detection:** Uncovering and prosecuting corrupt practices within county government.
- **Efficiency Improvement:** Recommending and implementing strategies to improve operational efficiency.
- **Transparency Enhancement:** Promoting open and transparent government operations.

## MISSION

To detect, investigate, and prevent fraud, waste, mismanagement, misconduct, and abuse of power through independent oversight of County affairs, and seek appropriate remedies to recover public monies.

## VISION

To be recognized as the premier agency in holding Miami-Dade County government accountable, ensuring it continues to provide excellence every day.



## VALUES

### **Integrity**

We govern ourselves honestly and ethically.

### **Impartiality**

We conduct our work objectively and independently.

### **Professionalism**

We maintain a staff of diverse and highly skilled professionals.

### **Accountability**

We take responsibility for providing thorough and fair findings and recommendations.

## II. OPERATING BUDGET

The OIG supports its commitment that we shall be productive and cost effective, being careful to continue doing our part to spend frugally and to not waste economic and environmental resources. Annually, we collaborate with the County’s Office of Management and Budget to account for the prior fiscal year’s actual expenditures, current year projections, and develop the OIG’s prospective proposed budget.

The OIG is funded by three distinct sources. This includes the OIG’s proprietary fees assessed on County contracts, direct payments collected through Memorandums of Understanding entered into with various County departments where we have committed substantial resources, and General Funds allocated through the County’s budget process. The availability of carryover (higher than expected returns on IG proprietary fees and unspent accumulated savings) also offsets the OIG’s need for General Fund dollars.

The chart below shows the OIG’s financial summary and comes directly from the County’s Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted Budget:

### OPERATING FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	Actual FY 21-22	Actual FY 22-23	Budget FY 23-24	Adopted FY 24-25
<b>Revenue Summary</b>				
General Fund Countywide	1,622	1,141	3,633	1,850
Carryover	1,795	1,449	322	2,216
Departmental Oversight (MOUs)	1,032	601	807	782
Fees and Charges	4,547	5,259	4,000	4,100
Interest Earnings	0	147	0	50
Miscellaneous Revenues	23	1	10	10
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>9,019</b>	<b>8,598</b>	<b>8,772</b>	<b>9,008</b>
<b>Operating Expenditures Summary</b>				
Salary	5,282	5,463	6,168	6,249
Fringe Benefits	1,680	1,733	2,189	2,320
Court Costs	0	18	2	10
Contractual Services	37	6	4	4
Other Operating	126	157	248	255
Charges for County Services	57	53	86	87
Capital	44	55	75	83
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>7,226</b>	<b>7,485</b>	<b>8,772</b>	<b>9,008</b>
<b>Non-Operating Expenditures Summary</b>				
Transfers	0	0	0	0
Distribution of Funds In Trust	0	0	0	0
Debt Service	0	0	0	0
Depreciation, Amortizations and Depletion	0	0	0	0
Reserve	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Non-Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

(dollars in thousands)	Total Funding		Total Positions	
Expenditure By Program	Budget FY 23-24	Adopted FY 24-25	Budget FY 23-24	Adopted FY 24-25
<b>Strategic Area: General Government</b>				
Inspector General	8,772	9,008	42	42
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>8,772</b>	<b>9,008</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>

**FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan**

**DIVISION: INSPECTOR GENERAL**

The OIG's principal objective is to promote honesty and efficiency in government and to prevent and detect misconduct, fraud and abuse in County programs and contracts. The OIG strives to ensure that taxpayers get a fair and honest accounting of their money and, where possible, seeks appropriate remedies to recover public funds.

- Communicates the Office's accomplishments through report distribution, website communication and public awareness initiatives
- Investigates, audits and inspects programs, projects and contracts to detect and prevent fraud, mismanagement, waste and abuse
- Provides all professional support to these functions including publicly reporting findings
- Publicly reports findings and initiates or makes civil, administrative and criminal referrals where necessary

**Strategic Plan Objectives**

- GG1-1: Support a customer-focused organization by providing convenient access to information and services, and by ensuring processes are easy to navigate

Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
				Actual	Actual	Budget	Projection	Target
Promote honesty and efficiency in government	Complaints received*	IN	↔	409	508	450	450	450
	Percentage of complainants receiving feedback about initial disposition of complaint within 30 days*	OC	↑	96%	95%	100%	95%	95%
Increase the public's awareness of the OIG's findings by providing easy access to reports and information distributed by the OIG via the Internet	Reports issued*	OP	↔	9	25	10	20	10
	Advisory memoranda issued*	OP	↔	24	19	15	15	15
	Contracts/ programs audited and reviewed	OP	↔	53	30	35	25	25

### III. THE OIG EXECUTIVE TEAM



(left to right) Hector Ortiz, Arleen Stanek  
Felix Jimenez, James Schlotzhauer and Marie Perikles

Inspector General Felix Jimenez is the head of the organization. His Executive Team includes Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz, General Counsel Marie Perikles, Director of Data Analytics James Schlotzhauer and Audit Manager Arleen Stanek.

Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz leads the Investigations Unit, which consists of three squads of experienced Special Agents supported by a team of skilled Investigative Analysts.

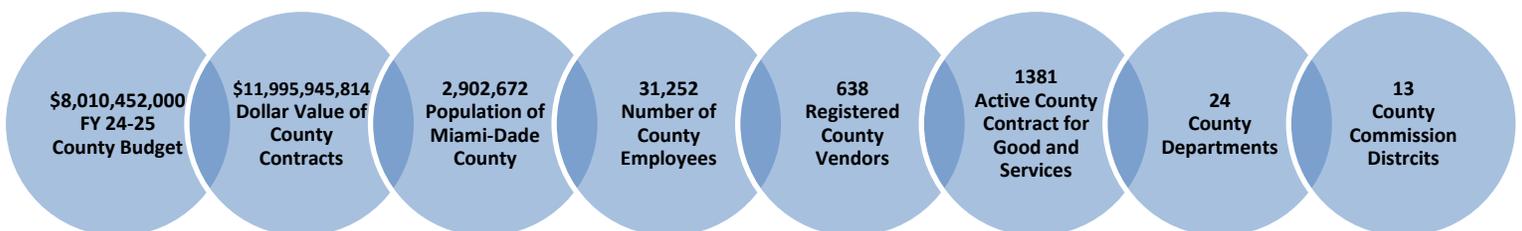
General Counsel Marie Perikles manages the Legal Unit. The Legal Unit provides continuous support to all OIG activities from the moment a complaint is received to case closure, which oftentimes involves the issuance of public reports and memoranda. OIG attorneys provide counsel on jurisdictional questions and help assess the strengths and weaknesses of OIG

cases for potential civil, administrative, or criminal implications. They also review all subpoenas issued by the Inspector General and all public reports prior to release.

Audit Manager Arleen Stanek oversees the Audit Unit consisting of a team of certified professionals with a wide range of government and private sector experience managing numerous audits involving contracts, construction, and county procurement. The Audit Unit frequently coordinates with the Investigations Unit and/or Contract Oversight Unit. All three units work together to advance the mission of the Office. The Contract Oversight Unit’s work includes active monitoring and random inspections of contracting and construction activities to ensure fairness in the procurement process and compliance with contract specifications.

As the Director of Data Analytics, James Schlotzhauer has the primary responsibility to ensure the alignment, development, and integration of data analytics, business intelligence, and artificial intelligence necessary to support the mission, vision, strategies, objectives, and goals of the OIG. Mr. Schlotzhauer organizes, assembles and supports resources necessary to address the current and future analytical needs of the OIG. All units work together to advance the mission of the Office.

#### INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT OF COUNTY AFFAIRS



## IV. OIG BEST PRACTICES & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program

On May 27, 2025, Inspector General Felix Jimenez, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz and Investigative Analyst Supervisor Kimberly Samuel hosted a successful exchange with 23 international delegates who were invited to the U.S. under the auspices of the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program arranged by World Learning in coordination with Global Ties Miami.

Foreign leaders from Australia, Belarus, Belize, Burundi, Guatemala, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Montenegro, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda and Ukraine had the opportunity to explore the crucial roles played by an independent oversight agency in promoting responsible government oversight through the reporting of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement to advance transparency and accountability.



## OIG's Best Practices - Intelligence Analyst Community



*(left to right) Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz, Investigative Analyst Kia Richardson, Assistant Analyst Diane Dentone, Analysts from OIG New Orleans Amanda Berry and Jeffery Babineaux, Investigative Analyst Supervisor Kimberly Samuel and Inspector General Felix Jimenez*

From August 19<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, the Miami-Dade County OIG hosted the New Orleans Office of the Inspector General's Intelligence Analysts to share best practices and explore more opportunities for leveraging analytical support by collaborating more closely with their audit, investigations, and contract oversight teams. The discussions emphasized how the OIG combats fraud, waste, and abuse by ensuring all findings are based strictly on facts and evidence, a process that critically relies on the specialized expertise of the Investigative Analyst in compiling, analyzing, and interpreting complex information.

## Vendor Outreach



The poster for the 6th Annual Procurement EXPO features a collage of images: a large cargo ship at a port, a presentation screen, and a group of people at a table. The text on the poster includes the Miami-Dade County logo, the event title, the date and time (Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 10:00am - 2:00pm), and the location (Miami-Dade Main Library). It also lists topics to be discussed, such as vendor registration and contracting opportunities, and provides a QR code and website for registration.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Procurement EXPO**

Hosted by:  
Office of the Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and  
Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department

**Tuesday  
August 19, 2025**  
10:00am – 2:00pm

**Attend and Learn about:**

- Vendor registration
- Contracting opportunities with County departments, municipalities, colleges and nonprofit organizations
- Small business enterprise certifications
- Access to capital
- And more...

**FREE ADMISSION & OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**REGISTER AND RSVP FOR THIS EVENT AT**  
[miamidade.gov/ProcurementExpo](http://miamidade.gov/ProcurementExpo)

**Miami-Dade Main Library**  
101 W. Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33130

**Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department**  
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 1300, Miami, Florida 33128  
[miamidade.gov/procurement](http://miamidade.gov/procurement) • 305-375-5773

To request materials in an accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any County sponsored program or meeting, please contact Mariela Massarotti at [mariela.massarotti@miamidade.gov](mailto:mariela.massarotti@miamidade.gov) or 305-375-3088 five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).

On August 19, 2025, the Office of the Inspector General’s Contract Oversight Specialists and Assistant Legal Counsels participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Procurement EXPO sponsored by the Miami-Dade County Strategic Procurement Department (SPD) and the Office of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. OIG personnel were available throughout the day to introduce county vendors and potential new vendors to the procurement oversight role of the OIG and to answer questions from the vendor community. This was the OIG’s sixth appearance at the EXPO—having participated since its inception.

The OIG looks forward to participating in future SPD forums.



*Melissa Sandness, Contract Oversight Specialists Dayron Perez and Cristina Amores, Audit Supervisor Mark Teitelbaum and Auditors Erik Rodriguez and Dmitriy Sirota*

## Ethical Governance Day

Annually, the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE) hosts a countywide event at all public high schools. Ethical Governance Day relies on an army of volunteers to speak to senior high school students about the importance of good government and public service. OIG staff also participate in other public school events such as Victims of Communism Day.

On October 16, 2025, Inspector General Felix Jimenez and Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Hector Ortiz volunteered for Ethical Governance Day by speaking to students at Miami Springs Senior High School and Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School. OIG representatives have been volunteering for this event for over a decade. We look forward to the opportunity to instill public service values among the County's teenagers and young adults. While at the school, IG Jimenez, an alumnus of Miami Springs SHS, was warmly welcomed to the Hawk's Nest.



## Take Your Child to Work Day



Take Your Child to Work Day is a national day that gives children a glimpse into the working world, shows them the value of their education, and provides an opportunity to share how they envision the future. The 2025 theme “For A New Generation” focuses on connecting children with role models in various field and helping them gain insights into different career paths, inspiring their future aspirations. On April 24, 2025, the children of OIG staff spent a day as “Honorary Inspectors General” exploring different



career opportunities in investigations, auditing, contract oversight, and the law. OIG Auditor Cristin Revilla looks forward to welcoming our children every year and plans an exciting day for them and our staff. We look forward to seeing them come back each year with enthusiasm and curiosity.



## Professional Development and Outreach



James Schlotzhauer and Adria Dilme-Bejel completed a five-day Certificate in Public Procurement training course, facilitated by the Strategic Procurement Department team (Jeannie Wong, Sophia Cunningham, Jocelyn Fulton, Christopher Grant-Henriques). The course focused on the principles of effective public procurement and the regulatory framework of the County's procurement process.



Miami-Dade Public Library System (MDPLS) officials Ray Baker (Director), Lydia Lopez (Assistant Director), and Qiana Robinson (Library Service Specialist) delivered a presentation detailing the library's available materials and resources. Staff had the opportunity to register for library cards.

*Ray Baker, MDPLS Director*



*Patra Liu, Ray Baker, and Felix Jimenez*



*Lydia A. Lopez, Ray Baker, and Qiana Y. Robinson*

This year the OIG team supported the American Cancer Society, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Toys for Tots.



**MARINE CORPS RESERVE**



## V. MILESTONES

The Miami-Dade County Office of Inspector General underwent both a reaccreditation and peer review in 2025.

Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an Office of Inspector General has met specific requirements and prescribed standards. An accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. In the State of Florida, the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) is the designated accrediting body for law enforcement agencies and for Offices of Inspector General. Accreditation involves a thorough examination of an office's policies and procedures, work product, investigations, supervision, personnel and training practices. Once achieved, accreditation is good for three years. This was the OIG's sixth accreditation.

A Peer Review is a voluntary process where the agency requesting a Peer Review welcomes a thorough examination of its policies and procedures, processes, documentation, workflow and impact on the community. The goal of the Peer Review is not just to assess how well an OIG is functioning, but to assess how well organizational processes and activities work toward maximizing operational efficiency and adherence to established quality standards.

### Reaccreditation



In July of 2010, the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) pursuant to standards developed for the Florida inspector general community. Accreditation is valid for a three-year period. The OIG was reaccredited in 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022. On June 19, 2025, Inspector General Felix Jimenez welcomed a team of assessors from the CFA to examine all aspects of the Miami-Dade County Office of the

Inspector General's investigative policies and procedures, management and operations. The OIG must maintain compliance with more than 42 standards in order to receive reaccreditation status. As part of the on-site assessment, agency members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team.

Although our accreditation takes place every three years, it is a continuous process that extends beyond the formal review. While the evaluation serves as a key checkpoint, our office must

maintain consistent compliance with standards and demonstrate ongoing adherence throughout the entire accreditation cycle. We do this to ensure that we are not only prepared for the next review but also fostering a culture of quality and accountability year-round.

## Peer Review

The Association of Inspectors General (AIG) conducted the triennial peer review of the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (MDOIG) from December 8, 2025, through December 11, 2025. The Peer Review Team (PRT) evaluated the work of the Audit Unit (AU), Contract Oversight Unit (COU), and Investigations Unit (IU) from September 30, 2023, through September 30, 2025. The PRT assessed the work of the AU for compliance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) promulgated by the U. S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). The PRT also assessed the work of COU and IU for compliance with the AIG Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General, promulgated by the AIG. These standards are consistent with the qualitative standards under which these Units have operated throughout the peer review period.

The Peer Review Team consisted of four experienced professionals in their respective fields. The PRT consisted of the following four individuals:

Peer Review Team Leader	Erica Smith Jefferson Parish (LA) Office of Inspector General Deputy Inspector General Audit and Evaluations
Investigations Review	Cynthia Bryant City of Chicago (IL) Office of Inspector General Chief Investigator
Audit Review	Darwyn Jones City of Chicago (IL) Office of Inspector General Deputy Inspector General for Audit
Contract Oversight Review	Robert “Bob” Cerasoli South Shore Workforce Development Board Executive Director

The Peer Review Team conducted in-depth reviews of completed investigations, audits and contract oversight reports. They reviewed personnel files, scrutinized staff qualifications and examined training records. In addition, the Peer Review Team interviewed every member of the OIG staff as well as several stakeholders, both internal and external to the County.

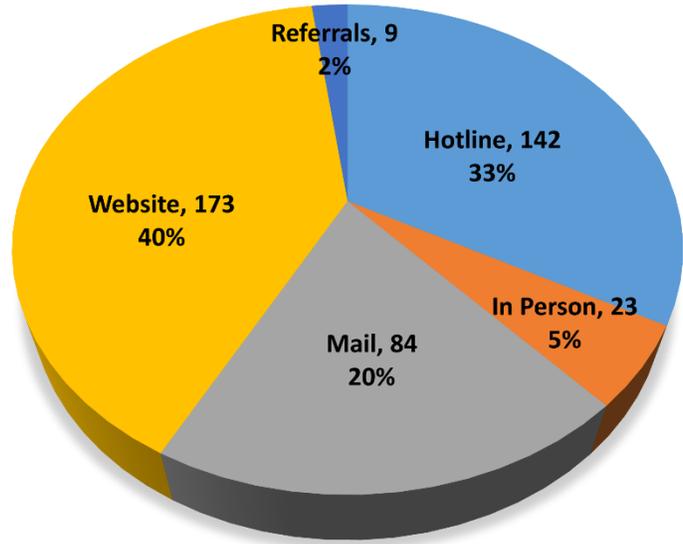
It was a unanimous conclusion of the Peer Review Team that the Audit Unit, Contract Oversight Unit and Investigations Unit met all relevant AIG and/or GAO qualitative standards for the period under review.

## VI. COMPLAINTS & DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS

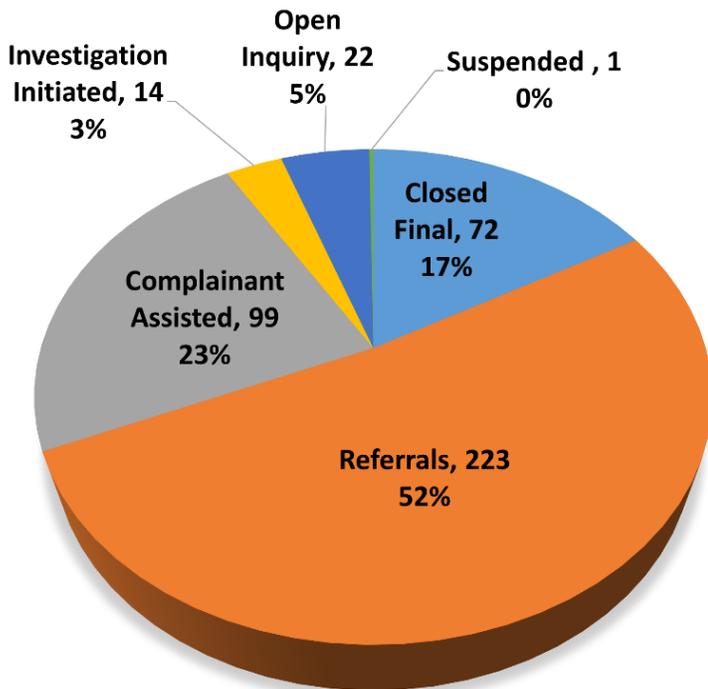
In Fiscal Year 2024–2025, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received a total of **431 complaints**, which were submitted via the following channels:

- **173** using the website's on-line complaint form
- **142** via the OIG Hotline
- **84** by mail
- **23** from individuals visiting the office to meet with an investigator
- **9** were referrals

**Number of Complaints Received  
FY 2024-2025**



**Disposition of Complaints  
FY 2024-2025**



Of the complaints received, the outcomes were as follows:

- **40%** were assisted by our office, warranted no further action, and were closed
- **8%** resulted in initiated investigations and preliminary inquiries
- **52%** were referred to appropriate County departments or other governmental agencies for direct action

For most of the referred complaints, the OIG requests and evaluates responses on the action taken. Based on this evaluation, the complaint may be closed, the OIG may seek further clarification, or the OIG may open its own investigation, audit, or review.

## VII. INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Investigations Unit works toward accomplishing the OIG’s mission by conducting investigations of fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct related to county programs, operations, contracts, vendors, and county employees. OIG Special Agents have a wide variety of experience as prior law enforcement officers or regulatory agency personnel. They are skilled in conducting investigations of white-collar crimes, financial fraud, and public corruption. The Investigations Unit coordinates with the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office, the United States Attorney’s Office, and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to leverage resources and fraud-fighting efforts. The OIG is also a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) South Florida Public Corruption Task Force. Our investigations often lead to administrative reports, criminal charges and monetary recovery. Whenever possible, recommendations are made to improve efficiency, effectiveness and prevent recurrence.

The Analyst Unit directly supports investigations conducted by the Investigations Unit, through intelligence gathering and analytical support. OIG Investigative Analysts are dedicated to maintaining relationships with organizations such as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators, and the Financial Institution Security Association.

In addition to investigative support, the Analyst Unit conducts criminal history background checks of advisory board nominees as mandated by the Miami-Dade County Code. The Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners has created ninety-seven (97) advisory boards comprised of volunteers nominated by individual commissioners. As part of the appointment process, the OIG Analyst Unit conducts State of Florida criminal history background checks on advisory board nominees. In 2025, eighty-six (86) criminal history background checks were conducted. The OIG Analyst Unit also manages the OIG Hotline that allows the public, county employees, stakeholders, and others to report suspected corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse.

During this past year, the Investigations Unit completed numerous investigations and reviews. All criminal investigations are conducted jointly with a law enforcement agency. The Investigations Unit’s work has resulted in arrests and prosecutions, corrective actions, and reforms. The following pages highlight some of the Investigations Unit cases.

## **A. ARRESTS, PROSECUTIONS, AND SENTENCINGS**

### **Former Employee of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, his Wife, and a County Contractor Pled Guilty and Sentenced in Federal Court to a Bribery and Kickback Scheme**

The OIG investigation involved the solicitation of bribes by the Superintendent of DTPW's Track and Guideway (Rail) Division, his wife, and a county contractor. The contractor provided services for the removal and replacement of railway fasteners and other rail-related maintenance services.

This case was initiated and investigated by the OIG. Because DTPW received federal funding, the OIG worked with the FBI's Miami Area Corruption Task Force, and the United States Attorney's Office during the investigation.

In May 2020, DTPW entered into a non-competitive, Emergency Metrorail Track Fastener Replacement contract with the vendor to remove and replace track fasteners. The Acting General Superintendent was actively involved in recommending and facilitating the award to the vendor. The contract was extended in February 2021, for an additional 25,000 track fasteners and an additional allocation of \$1.5 million. The vendor was also added to a pool contract to provide thermite welding and other rail maintenance.

The investigation uncovered that in January 2021, prior to the track fastener contract extension and thermite welding contract, the Acting General Superintendent solicited a bribe from the vendor. The payments were to be concealed and disguised as payments from the vendor's company to a fictitious railroad consulting company created by the superintendent's wife. The wife was listed as the resident agent of the fictitious company with a residential address in Maryland. At the time of the conspiracy the wife was employed as a legal assistant in the District of Columbia and had no previous experience in the railroad industry. Between February 2021 and February 2022, the fictitious company issued four invoices to the vendor's company.

The investigation found that the wife's company existed solely to receive the illicit bribe payments made by the vendor to the Acting General Superintendent. The fictitious railroad consulting company never performed any actual railroad-related work or services for the vendor or anyone else. Between 2021 and 2022, the vendor's company issued four checks to the wife's company totaling \$75,956.

The United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida, charged all three subjects of the investigation with felonies related to the bribery scheme. On April 25, 2025, the former Acting General Superintendent and his wife entered guilty pleas in federal court; the contractor entered a guilty plea on May 9, 2025.

On July 8, 2025, the former Acting General Superintendent was sentenced to 18 months federal prison followed by a 3-year term of supervised release; his wife was sentenced to a 3-year term of supervised release.

On October 8, 2025, the contractor was sentenced to 4 months federal prison, 3-year term of supervised release. In addition to fines and assessments, a forfeiture in the amount of \$75,956 was entered against the former County employee and the contractor.

## **Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sentenced to State Prison**

A Former Miami-Dade County District 11 Commissioner who was found guilty by a jury on November 7, 2024, on corruption charges was sentenced on September 15, 2025, to 34.5 months Florida state prison. The former Commissioner was found guilty of one count of Unlawful Compensation and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Unlawful Compensation.

The Commissioner was arrested in August 2022 and was found guilty of charges relating to a scheme to use his official position to benefit himself. The complex scheme uncovered by the investigation found that following the Commissioner's re-election in 2016, he sponsored legislation, later withdrawn, benefiting two constituents. One constituent from whom he took \$15,000 in payments and another from whom the Commissioner enlisted assistance to negotiate factoring financing for the benefit of the Commissioner's personal employer. The former Commissioner was granted bond pending an appeal of the conviction.

The OIG investigated this matter jointly with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Unit.

## **Three Water and Sewer Department (WASD) Employees Arrested in Schemes to Steal Scrap Metal**

On September 22, 2025, three WASD employees, two pipefitters and a pipefitter supervisor, were arrested for the theft of scrap metal generated on the job. Instead of turning the scrap metal into the County's scrap metal recycling program, the three employees sold it to private recycling companies by falsely claiming to be the rightful owners. Legitimate WASD scrap metal sales is managed through the County's People and Internal Operations Department and have generated over \$260,000 over the last four years. The thefts by the three WASD employees took place from various jobsites over the course of the last several years. The investigation found no evidence that the three employees were working together in their individual theft schemes.

The recycling of certain scrap metals is closely regulated in the State of Florida, and recycling companies are required to keep detailed records of recycling transactions. These records include photographs of the metal offered for recycling, photos of the customer conducting the transactions, and retention of the customer's identifying information. After receiving a tip that a WASD employee was illegally recycling county scrap, the OIG with the assistance of WASD Administration, and the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office conducted a check of over 50 WASD employees with similar access to

scrap metal. Based on the results of the checks further investigation was conducted resulting in the arrests of the three WASD employees.

The pipefitter supervisor was charged with having conducted 101 illegal recycling transactions while working as Senior Meter Technician from 2019 through 2023 netting over \$17,000 in illicit proceeds. A pipefitter was charged with conducting 15 illegal recycling transactions from 2020 through 2022 and netting over \$2,000 in illicit proceeds. A second pipefitter was charged with conducting 8 illegal recycling transactions from 2018 through 2022 and netting over \$4,000 in illicit proceeds. The charges filed against the WASD employees include second and third-degree felony crimes; Organized Scheme to Defraud, Dealing in Stolen Property, and violations of Florida's Secondary Metals Recyclers Act. All three WASD employees are pending trial.

The case was investigated jointly by the OIG, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, Public Corruption Unit, and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. While the investigation into the theft of scrap metal is continuing, the OIG is working with WASD to ensure proper supervision and compliance with its policies and procedures concerning the proper handling of scrap metal.

## **County Contractor's Employees Charged with Forging and Falsely Notarizing an MDAD Assistant Director's Signature**

Based on a referral by the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD), an OIG investigation resulted in the arrest of two employees of a county contractor for falsely notarizing the signature of an MDAD Assistant Director. One of the contractor's employees, an Assistant Project Manager, was charged with one count of Forgery, a third-degree felony, and Unlawful Use of a Notary Commission, a misdemeanor. The second employee, a Project Executive, was charged with one count of Unlawful Use of a Notary Commission, a third-degree felony. The charges stemmed from the contractor's employees' actions in submitting three permit applications on a construction project being performed by the county vendor containing the forged and fraudulently notarized signature of the MDAD Assistant Director of Facilities Development.

The county contractor was awarded a Tenant Airport Construction Non-Reimbursable (TACN) project at Miami Executive Airport (TMB) for the International Flight Center, a TMB tenant. TACN projects are funded by the tenant based on the tenant's identified operations needs but require project and building permit approval from the County's Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER). MDAD's Assistant Director of Facilities Development is responsible for new construction projects at all MDAD facilities, including TMB, and has delegated authority from the MDAD Director to sign permit applications as the owner/agent of MDAD. Permit applications must be first submitted to the MDAD Project Manager (PM) for review and if approved they are then signed and notarized by the MDAD Assistant Director.

This investigation was initiated after the MDAD PM learned of two pending permits submitted to RER without his prior review and approval. The two permits were for the county contractor's subcontractor plumbing work, and a third permit, for the same project, was later discovered for a

different project relating to a new sprinkler system. While the permit applications contained the purported notarized signature of the MDAD Assistant Director of Facilities Development, the OIG investigation was able to determine that none of the above permits were reviewed nor signed by the MDAD Assistant Director of Facilities Development.

Furthermore, the investigation uncovered that the contractor's Assistant Project Manager forged the MDAD's Assistant Director's signature using previous permit applications in order to copy the signature onto the bogus permits submitted to RER. For two of the falsified permits, the Assistant Project Manager used the Project Executive's notary seal and copied her signature as the notary. The third permit was fraudulently notarized by the contractor's Project Executive.

The vendor was notified of the forged and fraudulent permit applications and has resubmitted those permits, removed the Assistant Project Manager from the TACN project, and ceased to use the Project Executive as a notary for company documents.

In early May 2025, both defendants pled Nolo Contendere to a six (6) month Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) program, 100 hours of community service, and \$800 in fines and recoveries.

The case was investigated jointly by the OIG, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, Airport District, and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

## **OIG Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Task Force Cases**

The OIG participates in the FBI's Miami Area Corruption Task Force and has assisted in the investigation of CARES Act fraud cases committed by Miami-Dade County employees. The Task Force, in addition to the OIG, includes investigators from the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General (SBA OIG), the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Miami Field Office, and on some cases have also included the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations (IRS CI).

The CARES Act, enacted in March 2020, provided emergency financial assistance to individuals and eligible small businesses, sole proprietorships, and independent contractors experiencing substantial financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the CARES Act, the SBA provided several types of loans such as the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs), and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. To obtain the loans qualifying businesses were required to submit applications and to provide information about its operations, such as the number of its employees, gross revenues, etc. Applicants were required to certify under penalty of perjury that all information in either the EIDL or PPP loan application was true and correct.

The following cases are a result of the OIG's collaboration with the FBI Task Force and involved the investigation of Miami-Dade County employees who fraudulently applied for CARES Act funds.

## **Former Miami-Dade Corrections Officer Sentenced for COVID-19 Relief Fraud**

On February 4, 2025, a former correctional officer at the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR) was sentenced in federal court in connection with the submission of a fraudulent application for a CARES Act small business relief loan of approximately \$150,000.

The former correctional officer pled guilty to one count of Wire Fraud, on October 31, 2024, and was sentenced to 3 years of probation including 8 months of home detention with electronic monitoring, 200 hours of community service, and a \$10,000 fine. Prior to entering a plea of guilty, the former correctional officer paid off the restitution amount of \$149,900.

The former correctional officer who had been employed at MDCR from 1995 until his retirement in 2022, submitted a fraudulent EIDL application to the SBA claiming he was the owner of a sole proprietorship. The former correctional officer falsely claimed that for the 12-month period prior to January 31, 2020, he had gross revenues of approximately \$450,000 and three employees. As a result of the fraudulently submitted application, the former correctional officer obtained from the SBA \$149,900 in EIDL proceeds.

The former correctional officer's sole proprietorship business was not disclosed to his employer MDCR via a *Request to Engage in Outside Employment*.

## **Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works Employee Sentenced for COVID-19 Relief Fraud**

On April 14, 2025, a Department of Transportation and Public Works Department (DTPW) bus operator, was sentenced in federal court in connection with the submission of fraudulent applications for a CARES Act paycheck protection loans of over \$36,000.

The bus operator pled guilty to one count of Wire Fraud and was sentenced to 3 years' probation and 4 months home confinement with electronic monitoring. As part of the bus driver's sentencing, she was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$41,804 and was sentenced to perform 100 hours of community service.

The bus operator, who had been employed by the DTPW since November 15, 2021, submitted fraudulent PPP loan applications on behalf of a limited liability company. The bus driver falsely claimed that for the 12-month period prior to January 31, 2020, the company had monthly gross revenues of approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 and no employees. The bus driver's limited liability company was registered with the State of Florida Division of Corporations on May 23, 2022. The bus driver was listed as the sole manager and registered agent for the company. As a result of the fraudulent applications, the bus driver obtained PPP loans from an SBA approved lender in the amount of \$36,804.

The bus driver never disclosed to DTPW her outside employment via a *Request to Engage in Outside Employment*; nor did the bus driver file the required annual *Outside Employment Statement*, disclosing any income from outside employment.

## **Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) Employee Sentenced for COVID 19 Relief Fraud**

On May 28, 2025, an MDAD refrigeration/AC mechanic was sentenced in federal court in connection with his fraudulent application for a CARES Act small business relief loan of approximately \$160,000. The mechanic was sentenced on one count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud to 5 years of probation with 7 months of home confinement with electronic monitoring. Prior to the sentencing, the mechanic paid \$50,000 in restitution; as a part of the sentence, the former MDAD employee will have to pay \$114,679, the remaining restitution balance, with interest. The sentence also includes a minimum of 750 hours of community service.

The mechanic conspired with another individual to submit a fraudulent EIDL application to the SBA. In the fraudulent application the mechanic falsely claimed to be an independent contractor and 100% owner of an automotive repair business. The mechanic, with the assistance of his co-conspirator, falsely claimed that for the 12-month period prior to January 31, 2020, the company had gross revenues of approximately \$600,000, \$184,000 in costs of goods sold, and ten (10) employees. Additionally, the mechanic submitted a fraudulent 2019 IRS Form 1040 and Schedule C in support of the fraudulent application, claiming the mechanic's business had gross receipts of \$725,000 and a net profit of \$706,151.

During the investigation the OIG determined that the mechanic, who had never provided MDAD with a *Request to Engage in Outside Employment*, falsely claimed to own the business. The mechanic began his employment with Miami-Dade County in 1996 and had been employed with MDAD since 1998.

## **B. INVESTIGATIONS UNIT CASES RESULTING IN IMPROVEMENTS, MODIFICATIONS, REFORMS, OR RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Former MDFR Lieutenant Misused Official Position for Personal Financial Gain**

In early 2021, the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR) referred to the OIG an anonymous complaint sent to MDFR and the County's Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE).

The complaint forwarded by MDFR to the OIG alleged that an MDFR lieutenant was using his official position in the MDFR Logistical Services Division (LSD) to procure products for a vendor which was operated by his brother, sometimes bypassing the competitive bidding process and paying for some

items with a county purchasing card (P-Card). The anonymous complainant further alleged that other MDRF employees approved these orders with full knowledge and understanding of the relationship between the lieutenant and the vendor.

The allegations were substantiated as to the MDRF lieutenant, who retired from MDRF. The joint investigation by the OIG and COE, determined that MDRF expended more than \$332,000 on 27 transactions for products either sold by or manufactured by the company which was family-owned and operated by the lieutenant and his brother. The investigation revealed that the company registered to become a County vendor in March 2018, and nearly all the transactions originated after the lieutenant started his assignment at the MDRF LSD that started in October 2019.

While the lieutenant was found to have misused his position for personal financial gain, the investigation revealed no evidence that other MDRF employees acted based on knowledge of the relationship between the lieutenant, his brother, and the company nor received any direct or indirect benefit from the lieutenant or the vendor in question.

The COE filed a formal Ethics Complaint, accompanied by a detailed Probable Cause memorandum, accusing the former MDRF lieutenant of several violations of the County's Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Ordinance. The Complaint cited four distinct transactions where the lieutenant allegedly exploited his official position at MDRF to purchase thousands of dollars in equipment from his brother's company while serving as the company's president; the remainder of the Complaint detailed the lieutenant's conflicting outside employment as the compensated president of his brother's company and his failure to file the required documentation notifying the County of the source of his outside employment, and any consideration he received for at least two years.

The lieutenant stipulated to probable cause and pled no contest to violating Section 2-11.1(g), *Exploitation of official position prohibited*, Section 2-11.1(j), *Conflicting employment prohibited*, and Section 2-11.1(k)(2), *Prohibition on outside employment* of the County Code. As part of the negotiated plea, he accepted a formal Letter of Reprimand and agreed to pay \$16,500 in fines and investigative costs. On most of the counts, the normal COE fines were either doubled or tripled, as permitted by the County Code in situations where the commission can document egregious, willful violations.

While the COE prosecuted four transactions, the OIG's Final Report of Investigation detailed the remaining 23 transactions that benefitted the former lieutenant and his company. The OIG recommended and MDRF has agreed to initiate debarment proceedings against the company.

## **OIG Follow-Up Investigation on Selected Findings by ICD Audit of the Greater Miami Services Corp.**

On December 12, 2023, the Miami-Dade County (County) Audit and Management Services Department, now the Internal Compliance Department, (ICD) issued a Final Audit Report on the Greater Miami Service Corps, Inc. (GMSC). The audit, which was requested by County management,

examined GMSC's payroll, procurement, expenses, and transactions with the Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD) for accuracy and validity.

Following receipt of the audit report, the OIG elected to conduct a follow-up investigation into three findings: excessive reimbursement payments made to a part-time temporary employee; the distribution and use of large quantities of gift and fuel cards; and payments made to owners of unregistered businesses, rather than to the businesses themselves.

The OIG's investigation determined that GMSC engaged in irregular business practices; however, there was no evidence of misuse of GMSC funds. The OIG confirmed that the expenses reimbursed to the part-time temporary employee were in fact incurred on behalf of GMSC. The gift cards were given to program participants as incentives, fuel cards were provided to staff for fueling fleet vehicles, and the individuals paid as GMSC contractors did provide the services they were compensated for. The OIG also discovered that GMSC failed to issue the required tax documents to the contractors paid as individuals.

Following the investigation, the County and GMSC have taken steps to address the issues identified by the OIG and ICD. GMSC has transitioned into the Juvenile Services Department. It was in the process of reorganizing to eliminate conflicts between its nonprofit status and its relationship with the County. GMSC is now ineligible to apply for Community-Based Organizations (CBO) grants. It will no longer use contractors instead of Corps members unless explicitly specified in the contractual agreement. All County employees will adhere to County travel policies. Training on County policies and procedures is being implemented, and measures are being taken to ensure compliance moving forward. This includes adherence to County financial procedures.

## **Allegations of Improprieties Regarding the County's Weatherization Assistance Program**

The Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received a confidential complaint regarding the Miami-Dade County (County) Community Action and Human Services Department's (CAHSD) Energy Facilities and Transportation Services Division (Energy Division) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The complainant raised several concerns about the WAP.

The OIG's review focused on the following allegations: 1) improprieties related to opening sealed bids and giving preferential treatment to contractors; 2) failure to hold contractors accountable for the use of materials on specific projects; 3) making final payments to contractors before project completion; 4) WAP employees accepting gifts from a CAHSD contractor and 5) conflicts of interest involving a WAP employee and a family member who is a subcontractor on Energy Division projects.

The OIG's investigation found that the allegations regarding the opening of bids, preferences given to contractors, the improper use of materials on projects, and improper final payment to contractors were unfounded. The investigation of those matters resulted in an OIG observation recommending documentation and standardization of information in CAHSD Energy Division WAP records and client files.

The investigation substantiated that WAP employees accepted gifts from a contractor. Finally, the OIG substantiated a conflict of interest between a WAP employee and a family member's subcontracting business. The investigation found that some of the actions by the WAP employee that constituted a conflict were performed at the request of his now deceased former Division Director.

The OIG's investigation resulted in three recommendations which CAHSD is now implementing: 1) a department-wide no gift policy, 2) refresher employee training regarding gifts, conflicts of interest, and outside employment, and 3) standardization of WAP client files to ensure consistency with documentation and recordkeeping.

## **Ineligible Reimbursement Requests Submitted by a Children's Trust Grant Recipient**

The Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation after receiving a referral from the City of Miami Beach Office of the Inspector General (MB-OIG). The MB-OIG received a complaint containing several allegations, some of which were outside of its jurisdiction as they involved a program provider under contract with The Children's Trust, a Miami-Dade County created instrumentality.

The Children's Trust, an independent special taxing district in Miami-Dade County, has a dedicated source of revenue derived from a portion of property taxes. With these funds, The Children's Trust partners with providers to offer services supporting children and families in the County. Providers, like the grant recipient at issue, submit proposals through a competitive application process and once selected, a contract is executed which includes a budget and scope of services that details program activities and anticipated participants served.

Grant funds are not disbursed up front; instead, they are distributed on a cost reimbursement basis. The grant recipient, like all providers, was required to submit monthly reimbursement reports to The Children's Trust.

According to the grant recipient's contract, The Children's Trust agreed to reimburse for specified expenses it incurred in running certain afterschool and summer camp programs based on a pre-set budget. Some expenses were contractually reimbursed based on a percentage of what the program provider incurred, while others such as salaries for specified positions, were reimbursed at 100% the rate of pay. It was the responsibility of the provider to budget and expend the funds as contractually obligated.

The OIG investigation found that The Children's Trust fully funded two of the program provider's employee's salaries and those employees were listed on the internet as staff members for the provider's other business that shared administrative office space. That business is a retail store that sells cannabidiol (CBD) products. The grant recipient requested reimbursement for its administrative office by categorizing the expense as program space, which was incompatible with the budget guidelines provided by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust payments totaling over \$20,000 each program year, funded half of the lease of the CBD storefront and the other business's practice.

The actual space for the grant recipient’s administrative office, for which The Children’s Trust was paying, consisted of an office and a small interior office with two desks and a printer—not 50% of the space.

Further, the investigation found that the grant recipient in applying for a Miami Beach grant submitted documents that misrepresented its use of other monies received. Finally, with regard to the City grant, the grant recipient substituted an employee whose salary was fully funded by The Children’s Trust to keep the City grant funds once the original qualifying employee for the grant had left employment. The grant recipient’s contractual obligations with The Children’s Trust prohibited it from claiming costs under its contract while making additional claims from other agencies for those same costs.

The Children’s Trust rescinded the funding awarded to the grant recipient.

## **Fraudulent Documents Submitted by Subcontractor**

The OIG initiated an investigation after receiving a referral from the Miami-Dade Small Business Development Division (SBD), now within the Strategic Procurement Department, but at the time within the People and Internal Operations Department. SBD observed inconsistencies in the canceled checks and affidavits provided to SBD by a landscaping subcontractor on the PortMiami Cruise Terminal F Expansion and Berthing Realignment Project.

The subcontractor was identified by SBD as having committed a County Responsible Wages violation. SBD referred the matter to the OIG after concerns arose about the validity of affidavits and canceled checks provided by the subcontractor as evidence they had cured the violation. The OIG substantiated that the subcontractor submitted fraudulent canceled checks and affidavits in response to an SBD NOV of underpaid employee wages. Although the subcontractor has since compensated the employees with the proper wages for the project, the OIG recommended and SBD agreed to debar the subcontractor. Government contracting on public projects come with the responsibility to comply with rules and regulations. Based on the OIG’s investigation, not only did the subcontractor fail to comply, but it also provided false documentation to the County, in contravention of its contractual obligations.

## **Enforcement of MetroRail Parking**

The OIG self-initiated a review of the enforcement of Metrorail parking and the process of contested citations set for hearings.

The Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) is responsible for enforcing parking at all but two of the Metrorail parking facilities in the County as well as the Park & Ride facilities. The OIG review determined that the process of enforcing parking violations at Metrorail parking facilities is limited by a staffing and equipment shortage. Two employees were tasked with parking enforcement of over 12,000 spaces at 14 Metrorail facilities and 15 Park & Ride

locations across the County. Moreover, they lacked access to a program on county laptops limiting their ability to remotely attend violation hearings. The officers were unable to capture all the potential violations, and unable to defend challenges to the citations issued. The assessed value of the citations dismissed during the OIG's review totaled \$28,754.

During the OIG's review, DTPW took steps to correct these deficiencies. DTPW provided the parking enforcement officers with the ability to attend the hearings while in the field. That measure now ensures that revenue from contested violations is not lost due to the non-appearance of the DTPW MDT enforcement officers. DTPW has also hired two additional parking enforcement officers, allowing for greater coverage of the multiple Metrorail facilities. In response to the OIG's report, DTPW advised the OIG that it has been granted access to the Clerk of Court's E-Subpoena system to provide real-time access into assigned court dates allowing DTPW managers to verify and ensure attendance and compliance with hearings. DTPW also implemented a structured framework allowing for enhanced tracking of assignments, workload distribution, and operational consistency. Finally, DTPW is procuring technological solutions to enhance parking enforcement.

## **C. OTHER INVESTIGATIONS UNIT CASES**

### **Former Seaport Director Violated Two-Year Lobbying Prohibition**

The OIG initiated a joint investigation with the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE) predicated on an anonymous complaint alleging the former Director of the Miami-Dade County Seaport Department participated in negotiations with Seaport employees on behalf of his employer, a cruise line, in violation of the County's Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Ordinance, specifically Section 2-11 (q)(1) of the Code of Miami-Dade County.

Commonly referred as the Two Year-Rule, Section 2-11.1(q) of the County Code prohibits former county employees from lobbying their former employer for two years after their employment has ceased. The Two-Year Rule is designed to limit former employees' ability to use their former County service and contacts to influence an official decision or action of a current County official or employee. Requesting and/or negotiating amendments to an existing contract constitutes lobbying. This is especially the case when the amended contract must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

The joint investigation found that there were several instances of in-person, lunch, and web-based meetings where the former Director met with Seaport staff between June 2022 and November 2022. In most, if not all the meetings at issue, the former Director's presence was associated with discussions and negotiations regarding the Terminal Transfer Rider and other matters related to the contract between the cruise line and the County.

The OIG reviewed the calendars for web-based invitations from January 2022 through November 2022, for Seaport personnel; and the Seaport employees' calendars corroborated that approximately

three lunches were scheduled between the Seaport staff and the former Director during the span. When County personnel were interviewed regarding these and other interactions, they indicated they engaged in general conversations with the former Director; but denied that the former Director was an active participant in negotiations. Instead, the County personnel acknowledged that the former Director introduced the topics of discussion and then disappeared from the computer screen, but could be heard in the background, off-screen of the virtual meeting, commenting that the cruise line needed its own parking garage, and referencing the cruise line's inability to meet their minimum annual guarantee of passengers.

As the former Director's mere presence at these meetings constituted lobbying activity, the COE filed a complaint against the former Director for violating the Two-Year Rule. On July 10, 2024, the COE and the former Director executed a Stipulation to Probable Cause and entered a settlement agreement in which the COE accepted the former Director's decision not to contest the allegations, ordered him to pay a fine of \$500, and ultimately issued a Letter of Instruction and dismissed the complaint.

## **Improper Outside Employment by Property Appraiser Employee**

The OIG initiated an investigation based on an anonymous complaint alleging various improprieties by an employee of the Property Appraiser's Office (PAO). At the time the OIG initiated this investigation, the PAO was a department of Miami-Dade County government. Since the initiation of the investigation pursuant to Section 125.691, Florida Statutes, implementing Amendment 10, amending Article VIII, Section 1(d) and 6(g) of the Florida Constitution, the PAO is now an entirely independent constitutional office.

Nevertheless, the investigation was concluded. The OIG substantiated that the PAO employee was the registered agent of a corporation, but did not find, as the complaint alleged, that he was involved in outside employment selling alarm equipment, assisting other employees with their tax returns during work hours, or laundering money. However, the OIG determined that the former employee was involved in continuous outside employment without obtaining yearly authorization and filing the appropriate form reporting his income. The OIG also found that he stored various documents associated with his outside employer on his County issued computer, used County resources and personnel on behalf of his outside employer, and referred his outside employer to a tax agent in violation of the County's Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy. The employee is no longer employed by the PAO.

## VIII. AUDIT UNIT



The primary objective of the OIG Audit Unit is to support the OIG's mission by conducting audits, inspections, and evaluations to detect fraud, waste, and mismanagement. Audit engagements generally conclude with the issuance of a Final Report that presents the OIG's findings, observations, and recommendations, along with the auditee's responses. When questioned costs, potential savings, or other financial impacts are uncovered, OIG auditors provide targeted recommendations to mitigate risks and recover public funds as appropriate. Equally

important, the OIG Audit Unit conducts follow-up reviews with the County entities responsible for implementing those recommendations to ensure that corrective actions are implemented to address any noted deficiencies and adverse conditions.

Audits performed are primarily derived from complaints received by the OIG or initiated at the direction of the OIG Executive Team based on issues identified in the course of other inspections, reviews, or investigations. The OIG's audit authority is embedded in Article 9, Section 11 of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, which empowers the OIG to conduct audits and reviews of County contracts, programs, and projects. More specifically, Section 2-1076(d)(6) of the Code of Miami-Dade County enables the OIG to conduct audits of County contracts at random. The Audit Unit also assists other OIG units by providing financial, accounting, or analytical research as needed.

The Audit Unit conforms with the Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General (Green Book) and the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS aka Yellow Book). The AIG conducted its most recent Peer Review of our office in December 2025 to determine compliance with the Green Book and the Yellow Book. The peer review was passed satisfactorily, meeting all relevant qualitative standards for the period under review.

The Audit Unit is a diverse group of individuals with various auditing backgrounds. All members hold the AIG's Certified Inspector General Auditor designation. Additional designations held by Audit Unit members include that of Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Internal Auditor, AIG's Certified Inspector/Evaluator, Certified Risk Management Assurance Auditor, Certified Government Auditing Professional, Certified Government Financial Manager, as well as Certified Financial Services Auditor.

Summaries of our reports issued in 2025 as well as some of our on-going audit activities are noted in the following pages.

## A. THE OIG'S ON-GOING REVIEW OF POOL CONTRACTS



One of the main objectives for establishing pool contracts is to make the process of buying regularly accessed items or services simpler and faster to procure. Pool contracts also provide more contracting opportunities to a larger number of firms, and based on the estimated value of the procurement, pools allow for sheltered contracting opportunities to certified small business enterprises (SBEs). Through a solicitation for qualifications, potential contractors, suppliers, and vendors, are screened to develop a pool of qualified firms who will then compete to render goods and/or services, on an as-needed basis. Considering that pool

contracts are relied upon to expedite construction services and are widely used throughout the County, the OIG has since 2021, audited and reported on two of the largest pool contracts established by Miami-Dade County—the Miscellaneous Construction Contracts (MCC) Program, and the Equitable Distribution Program (EDP).

### The MCC Program 7040 and 7360 Plans

During 2022, the OIG issued two reports on County department's use of the emergency pool under the MCC Program. In 2024, the OIG issued a third more encompassing audit report on the County's Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) department's utilization of the MCC Program. During this fiscal year, the OIG has been conducting its fourth audit of the County's People and Internal Operations Department's utilization of the MCC Program, both emergency and non-emergency projects. The audit focuses on PIOD's compliance with the solicitation and award processes, its adherence to the ERT rotational policy, and its compliance with contract's change order submission and approval process. The audit also focuses on the Strategic Procurement Department's (SPD's) monitoring for departmental compliance. Fieldwork is near completion and an audit report will be issued in early 2026.

The MCC Program was historically administered as two separate renewable contracts to competitively bid smaller construction projects. In 2009, the BCC, via passage of Ordinance No. 09-101, codified the contracts into a permanent program establishing a procurement vehicle to expedite construction contracting and to further enhance contracting opportunities for certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) – Construction firms. Projects valued up to \$5 million may be procured through the MCC Program.

The MCC Program comprises of the 7040 Plan and the 7360 Plan. The 7040 Plan is a 100% set-aside pool for SBE construction firms. The 7360 Plan is an open non-restricted pool for all construction firms that can be used when funding sources prohibit procurement restrictions, such as set-asides, or when there are not sufficient firms available in the 7040 Plan. SPD is responsible for promoting and

administering the MCC Program. County Code Section 2-8.2.7.01 and Section 10-33.02,<sup>1</sup> as well as Implementing Order 3-53, establish the guidelines and requirements for the overall MCC Program.

The MCC Program works as a pool contract where pre-qualified contractors—whether they are general contractors or trade-specific contractors—bid on construction projects. County departments accessing either the 7040 or 7360 plans solicit bids via Requests for Price Quotes (RPQ). The MCC Program is the primary contracting vehicle to award contracts for new construction, renovations, repairs, and maintenance projects with a maximum value of up to \$5 million. The MCC Program consisted of both emergency and non-emergency projects; both of which are tracked using the County’s Capital Improvement Information System (CIIS).

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) Pool is accessed on an emergency basis when there are unforeseen, unanticipated, or urgent construction service needs where the protection of life, health, safety, and welfare of the community or preservation of public property would not be possible using any of the County’s standard contracting methods. Once an emergency request has been identified and approved, the department contacts and subsequently awards the project to an ERT Pool contractor in CIIS in accordance with SPD’s Contractor Rotational Policy, which requires that departments accessing the pool to contact and award the emergency project to the next available contractor in the ERT rotation.

For non-emergency projects, both the 7040 and the 7360 plans provide for solicitations up to \$5 million. The RPQ contains an estimated contract value, a work scope, project name and location, contractor requirements, and plans and specifications. The RPQ also includes a bid form and the request to submit prices and other necessary information. Prior to the issuance of the RPQ, SPD reviews the RPQ for compliance with County guidelines, Florida Statutes, SBE measures, and the required contractor licenses (trade category). Subsequent to SPD’s review and approval, SPD creates a bidders list in CIIS. The bidders list, which is attached to the RPQ, is based on the contract requirements, contractor rotational position, and SBE goals, if applicable.

RPQs issued under the 7040 Plan are not publicly advertised and only SBE firms registered under the 7040 Plan are eligible to bid. The number of SBE contractors that solicit for bids is based on the RPQ dollar value. The MCC 7360 plan is usually used when federal funding is involved, or the funding source does not allow for a set-aside or a 100% SBE goal is not attainable. These RPQs are advertised publicly and are open to all contractors; however, to be awarded, the contractor must be registered within the MCC Program.

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<sup>1</sup> County Code Section 10-33.02 establishes the Small Business Enterprise Construction Services Program and sets forth the requirements for construction firms seeking SBE certification.

## The Equitable Distribution Program



Miami-Dade County created the Equitable Distribution Program (EDP) to facilitate procurement of architectural and engineering (A&E) design services , as well as to afford county departments' access to qualified professionals for smaller projects in an expedited fashion without necessitating a formal solicitation process. The program is structured to equitably distribute projects in all County technical certifications to the program participants through a centralized rotational system. Each firm's position, in the technical certification pools, is based on their prior contracting opportunities with the County. The EDP is applicable for all County projects with an estimated construction cost of \$7.5

million or less and study activities less than \$500,000, per the recent increase in the legislative thresholds established in Florida State Statute 287.055 for continuous contracts.

In 2024, the OIG initiated reviews of County departments' utilization of the EDP, including the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, the Miami-Dade Seaport Department, the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Department, and the Miami-Dade Public Library Systems. This past year, the OIG initiated reviews of four additional county departments accessing the EDP Program pool. Those four departments include the Water and Sewer Department, the Department of Transportation and Public Works, Miami-Dade Aviation Department, and Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department.

These reviews focused on each department's overall compliance with established EDP guidelines, specifically via special requests, emergencies, and added change orders to extend EDP services including special request projects. The OIG has met with the County's Strategic Procurement Department (SPD) senior staff and provided preliminary findings and concerns noted during the fieldwork, some of which are currently being addressed by SPD. With fieldwork now completed, the OIG anticipates the issuance of a comprehensive final report in the near future.

## B. OTHER AUDITS, INSPECTIONS & REVIEWS

### Tropical Park's Shelter Rental Operations



The OIG initiated a review of Tropical Park's Shelter Rental operations following anonymous allegations of unauthorized shelter fee waivers and vendor irregularities. Upon learning that the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) department conducted its own internal investigation, the OIG requested comprehensive data regarding the department's findings and subsequent corrective actions. Following this request, PROS submitted an initial report in October 2024 and a secondary response in January 2025 to address the OIG's follow-up inquiries. These responses

detailed the investigation process and updated procedural safeguards, which were evaluated by the OIG.

PROS' internal investigation, which included employee interviews and an audit of reservation history, revealed a long-standing practice where unauthorized shelter fee waivers were routine for County employees. Employees interviewed by PROS indicated that these waivers were a common practice believed to be a legitimate benefit offered to County staff. These findings prompted a full revision of department policies, including a new mandate that all shelter fee waivers require formal approval from the department's Director or a Director's designee. The OIG cross-referenced daily activity logs with official reservation data and identified 49 instances of potential lost revenue, totaling \$24,415 over a 16-month period. PROS advised its intent to conduct continual reviews of the fiscal impact of shelter fee waivers.

In July 2025, the OIG was advised that major improvements were made to the ParkLink reservation system. The updated software features a mandatory audit trail that records all user activity, preventing staff from modifying shelter availability or fees without leaving a digital footprint. With these automated controls and new reconciliation protocols in place, the OIG formally closed its review, noting that the department's proactive response has successfully implemented controls within the reservation system to prevent future fee waiver misuse.

### Review Regarding the Department of Transportation and Public Works' (DTPW'S) Spare Parts for New Railcars

In 2022, the OIG initiated this review based on concerns raised by DTPW senior officials regarding potential mismanagement of the maintenance and repair of the new railcars and the spare parts inventory. DTPW senior officials cited reports generated by the Rail Division indicating a significant number of new railcar pairs were listed as "Unavailable." Furthermore, the internal reports identified several railcars as "Long Term Unavailable" due to accidents and others as temporarily

unavailable due to a lack of spare parts. DTPW senior officials requested that the OIG determine the reason for the shortage and the elevated number of unavailable railcars.

The OIG did not find any indication to suggest that mismanagement or negligence hindered the efforts of DTPW to acquire a proper inventory of spare parts. The OIG review identified systemic issues that contributed to delays in establishing a robust inventory, including accelerated production schedules, exclusivity agreements with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) subcontractors, and management directives and miscommunications regarding the required vendor supply of the \$18 million contractual spare parts.

Miami-Dade County entered a contract with AnsaldoBreda on November 8, 2012, to purchase 136 new railcars (AnsaldoBreda was acquired by Hitachi in 2015). Included in the contract was a provision that Hitachi was obligated to provide \$18 million worth of spare parts for the new railcars. The contract stated that the specific parts would be recommended by the Contractor, and after consultation with the County, the County Engineer would approve the final spare parts list.

The OIG determined that the contractual \$18 million credit for spare parts was intended for major components with long lead times, such as couplers, wheels, and trucks; not consumable parts (wiper blades, lighting, seals, filters, etc.) which were to be procured through routine processes, separate from the contractual spare parts credit. This two-track process for building an inventory of spare parts was misinterpreted to be inclusive of both spare parts and consumable parts. As such, requisitions for consumable parts were often denied or delayed while the \$18 million for contractual spare parts had not yet been exhausted. This miscommunication led to denied requisitions for consumable parts and the harvesting of parts from railcars, which were then designated as long-term unavailable. In 2024, the OIG was informed that a reconciliation of the harvested parts was undertaken by Hitachi to properly document the maintenance books for each pair of railcars.

Additionally, during delivery of the initial pair of new railcars for field testing, the County directed Hitachi to accelerate production. Thus, as a result, modifications were made while production was underway, requiring frequent manual updates. This accelerated roll-out was a key factor complicating spare parts planning and inventory development.

Another factor that contributed to the delay in obtaining spare parts was that the OEM subcontractors had a common provision in their agreements, with Hitachi, an exclusivity clause granting Hitachi exclusive rights to sell spare parts to the County. This clause, effective for 10 years after the last delivered paired-railcars warranty expiration (May 1, 2027), prevents the County from purchasing parts directly from OEMs or any other competitors in the marketplace. Thus, all spare parts must pass through the hands of Hitachi, subject to markup. It was determined that the County was aware of this exclusivity provision between Hitachi and the subcontractors.

The County Engineer, who reviewed and approved the subcontracts containing the provisions, explained that the exclusivity provisions are to ensure that warranty is not jeopardized by seeking lower priced, after-market substitutions. Hitachi's senior project manager advised that Hitachi is willing to modify subcontractors' agreements if the County commits to using OEM parts exclusively.

During our review, exclusivity provisions were removed from two subcontract agreements.

In 2024, the OIG was informed by DTPW senior procurement staff that they were working on establishing a designated purchase program for OEM, Original Equipment Suppliers, and specialized vendors for its bus, metromover, and rail parts to procure parts on a non-competitive basis. This designated purchase program was later approved in June 2025, by the County's Board of County Commissioners (Board) via Resolution No. R-548-25, which recommended and authorized the Mobility Sourcing Program (MSP) for DTPW to purchase parts and services for its transportation systems. On October 28, 2025, DTPW's Director issued a memo authorizing the implementation of the MSP and establishing controls, procedures, and an oversight framework to be administered by its operations and procurement staff to improve efficiency and long-term compliance. The OIG issued a draft report on October 31, 2025, commending DTPW for the implementation of the MSP and confirmed receipt of 98% of the \$18 million contractual spare parts. An OIG final report was later issued formally closing this review.

## **Audit Recommendation Regarding Lump Sum Professional Services Agreements Adopted Countywide**

In September 2020, the OIG issued an audit report on the review of a Water and Sewer Department's (WASD) Professional Services Agreement (PSA) for its Pump Station Improvement Program (PSIP). The scope of the PSA covered program management services, including the coordination of planning, scheduling, design, and construction management services to meet the needs of WASD and its envisioned goals for the PSIP. The consultant awarded the PSA proposed to perform the work using both its own staff as well as subcontractors. Resumes of the proposed personnel were included in the consultant's proposal and were reviewed by county staff to decide if the proposal was adequate. In addition, resumes were used for verification purposes to ensure that the consultant staff are qualified and able to complete the project timely.

The principal objective of the audit was to determine whether the individuals included in the consultant's proposal or individuals with a similar level of education and expertise had actually performed the work as required to complete the project. Thus, the OIG requested time utilization records; however, the consultant advised that it was not required to maintain these records for lump sum PSAs. Consequently, OIG auditors could not determine which consultant or subconsultant's staff performed the required task. While the PSA lump sum agreement does not require the consultant to maintain this information, the absence of this data could be detrimental when analyzing a consultant or subconsultant's performance.

In the audit report, the OIG recommended WASD add procedures in its PSAs which require prime consultants and subconsultants to track, manage, and identify employees and the hours worked for each project by the employees. While these records would not need to be submitted to the department along with its monthly invoices, consultants would be required to maintain them internally and these records would be subject to audit.

This audit recommendation was eventually adopted by WASD and more recently by the County's

Seaport Department. Recognizing its value, the OIG proposed to the County's Strategic Procurement Department that this recommendation, which ensures transparency and accountability, be extended across all County departments to ensure transparency and optimal utilization of resources. On December 29, 2025, the Strategic Procurement Department informed the OIG that the PSA template is being revised to require consultants and subconsultants to maintain project records that identify the employees that performed the work and the hours worked, in the event of an audit.

The implementation of this recommendation countywide will ensure that the service level of effort and expertise of the personnel performing the services required by a PSA comports with the levels included in a consultant's proposal.

## Inspection of Security Cameras at County Facilities Managed by The People and Internal Operations Department (PIOD)



In November 2025, the OIG issued an inspection report of security cameras at Miami-Dade County (County) facilities managed by the People and Internal Operations Department (PIOD). The purpose of the inspection was to ensure that PIOD was following its standards, policies, and best practices for operating video management systems, such as security cameras, at facilities managed by PIOD. In addition, the OIG examined the timeliness of camera repair and maintenance and reviewed the methodology used by PIOD to procure equipment either for new installations or for repairs/replacements. The OIG did not evaluate the efficacy of the security system or the adequacy of any video camera.

The OIG reviewed open and closed work order data for the period beginning January 1, 2023, and ending November 30, 2024. For the 23-month period reviewed, 27 PIOD-managed sites had 360 closed work orders. Using analysis of work order data, the OIG performed six site visits at PIOD-managed locations to satisfy our inspection objectives. Our inspections indicated that the PIOD is operating effectively, roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and tasks are completed in a timely manner. This report is confidential and exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Section 119.071(3), Florida Statutes.

## IX. CONTRACT OVERSIGHT UNIT

The Contract Oversight Unit (COU) tracks stages of procurement, from pre-bid meetings to contract award, and conducts periodic oversight of certain active contracts to ensure all terms of the agreement are being met. Our Contract Oversight Specialists perform independent assessments of the procurement, design, and implementation of various Miami-Dade County contracts and programs. Their reviews, inspections, and evaluations are conducted to ensure compliance with laws, policies, procedures, and to provide timely, accurate, and useful information and recommendations. OIG Contract Oversight Specialists will advise County administrators or issue memoranda documenting any observations and recommendations of improper, unsuitable, or non-compliant procurement practices or contract activities. Contract oversight observations can aid in identifying savings or cost avoidance; however, the primary purpose of the COU is to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in the County's procurement processes and contracting activities.

The duties and responsibilities of the contract oversight function are codified in Section 2-1076 of the Code of Miami-Dade County. Oversight includes reviewing the advertised solicitations and all addenda issued; observation of the evaluation, selection, and negotiation meetings; monitoring of related communications; and tracking the due diligence assessments of participating vendors. The OIG works to ensure that vendors, contractors, and firms interested in doing business with Miami-Dade County compete on a level playing field. Our Contract Oversight Specialists work independently or together with the audit or investigations unit.

The COU is comprised of a supervisor and three specialists. Contract Oversight Specialists have diverse professional backgrounds including policy and public administration, construction project management, and architecture. All members of the COU have or will attain the designation of Certified Inspector General Inspector/Evaluator (CIGE) from the Association of Inspectors General.

Input from the COU's contract oversight specialists, whether verbal or in writing, may occur at any step in the process. Contract oversight specialists, exempt from Cone of Silence's restrictions that limit communications once a solicitation has been advertised, are uniquely positioned to consider input from the participating vendors during the bid process. Vendors may contact the OIG to complain about bid specifications or qualifications, process irregularities, or to question selection criterion that appear to provide an unfair advantage to a competitor.

To protect the public's interest throughout the term of a contract, the COU may monitor contract implementation and contractor performance to ensure compliance with the contract's terms and conditions, validate expenditures, and verify that contracted deliverables have been received. For construction contracts, the COU may monitor adherence to specifications, threshold inspections, construction progress, schedule delays, expenses from the contingency allowance account, and change orders. The COU has earned a reputation of providing objective, valuable information that serves to enhance the integrity of the procurement process and contract management.

## A. PROVIDING OVERSIGHT VALUE TO OUR MOU DEPARTMENTS & MONITORING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Miami-Dade County's Aviation Department (MDAD), Water and Sewer Department (WASD), Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW), and the Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) have entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the OIG. The following pages highlight contract oversight activities performed during 2025 relating to these four departments.

### 1. Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

MDAD remains one of the Office of the Inspector General's longest-standing strategic oversight partnerships. In 2000, the Aviation Department became the OIG's first MOU client department following the adoption of Board Resolution R-1203-99, which directed the Administration to provide the resources necessary for the OIG to review and monitor contracts at Miami International



Figure 1: Source: MDAD - Miami International Airport (MIA)

Airport (MIA). Since that time, the OIG has maintained a continuous on-site presence at the airport, with dedicated Contract Oversight Specialists assigned to monitor the department's capital, construction, and professional services programs.

MDAD manages and operates MIA and four general aviation airports, serving a wide range of stakeholders, including elected County officials, airline executives, federal authorities, and the traveling public, within a dynamic milieu of competing interests. In this environment, where the procurement of goods and services is rarely routine, the OIG invests considerable time monitoring MDAD's procurement activities and its Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Throughout the year, the Contract Oversight Unit actively engages with aviation leadership, program managers, and construction representatives to evaluate contract administration, schedule performance, and identify risk areas related to regulatory compliance and contractor performance. This proactive participation allows the OIG to identify potential issues early, improve project accountability, and provide independent reporting to both County leadership and the public.



Figure 2: <https://www.miami-airport.com/MIAFutureReady.asp>

## MDAD's Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

MDAD is currently implementing the “Modernization in Action (M.I.A.)” initiative, a comprehensive capital and maintenance program valued at approximately \$9 billion over the next decade. This initiative is designed to modernize nearly every component of Miami International Airport (MIA) while maintaining full 24-hour operations. The program supports projected growth to approximately 77 million passengers annually by 2040 and includes high-stakes projects such as the redevelopment of the Central Terminal, construction of the new Concourse K, and expansion of Concourse D. The complexity of coordinating these improvements among airlines, tenants, and federal agencies within a live operational environment presents inherent risks to procurement integrity, project scheduling, and the stewardship of public funds.

The OIG's Contract Oversight Unit has maintained a continuous oversight presence. The OIG's monitoring efforts focused heavily on passenger-facing infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of over 600 elevators, escalators, and moving walkways, and the renovation of nearly 200 public-access restrooms. Beyond physical construction, OIG staff evaluated procurement practices related to non-competitive awards and change management and monitored negotiations involving proprietary equipment and vendor availability. The OIG also observed planning and design phases for major initiatives like the Concourse D West Extension (D60) to ensure early identification of risks related to regulatory compliance and contractor responsibility.

The OIG's active monitoring provided an essential layer of transparency and accountability for one of the County's largest capital programs. By maintaining a real-time presence, the OIG identified and addressed potential risks in procurement methods and contractor performance before they escalated into costly delays.

As MDAD continues to expand and as projects within the CIP advance, the OIG will continue to provide independent monitoring of procurement and construction activities. As major redevelopment projects transition from design to active construction, the Contract Oversight Unit remains committed to evaluating change orders and contractor performance. Through this ongoing on-site presence, the OIG ensures that these significant public investments proceed with the highest levels of integrity and transparency, safeguarding MIA's trajectory as a future-ready global hub.

## Vertically Integrated Cargo Community (VICC)

The proposed Vertically Integrated Cargo Community (VICC) project consisted of a nearly 800,000-square-foot, four-level automated cargo facility on 11.19 acres at Miami International Airport (MIA), intended to increase airport cargo capacity to at least 4.5 million annual tons and help preserve MIA's status as a leading international freight hub. The facility, projected to require a minimum private investment of \$400 million, was expected to generate significant economic activity, including generating thousands of jobs during and post construction, and over \$500 million in revenue to the County over the life of the proposed development lease.



Figure 3: Source: Miami Gateway Partners

The concept originated in 2020 as an unsolicited proposal. An OIG [memorandum](#) in 2022 regarding timelines established in the Code of Miami-Dade County for consideration of unsolicited proposals resulted in amending Administrative Order 3-65, governing the procedures.

In 2024, following the Board of County Commissioners' approval of a 40-year Development Lease Agreement with Miami Gateway Partners, LLC (Gateway), the project entered its 18-month Due Diligence phase. The OIG continued monitoring Gateway's progress in meeting key milestones.

During the Due Diligence period, the project underwent significant design changes and operational revisions. These changes created uncertainty regarding compliance with the Development Lease Agreement's technical deliverables and funding deadlines. Ultimately, on July 28, 2025, Miami Gateway Partners exercised its contractual right to terminate the Development Lease Agreement for convenience effectively ending the project under its existing structure.

As a result, the proposed vertically integrated cargo facility will not be constructed as contemplated. The Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) is currently evaluating alternatives to address MIA's growing cargo capacity needs, including potentially repackaging a similar concept for a future competitive solicitation or expanding other projects within its Capital Improvement Plan. The OIG will continue to monitor MDAD's efforts as the Department seeks solutions to accommodate increasing cargo demand and maintain MIA's competitive position as international trade and goods movement in South Florida continues to expand.

## Expansion of the existing South Terminal and the Design and Construction of a new Concourse K

On May 20, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Design-Build Agreement (R-479-25) to expand the South Terminal at Miami International Airport (MIA) and design and construct

New Concourse K. The OIG initiated contract oversight of the \$600.6 million project, which represents the first new terminal construction at MIA since 2007 and is a major component of MDAD's ongoing capital modernization efforts.



Figure 4: Source: MDAD

Oversight began post-award and focuses on monitoring the project from the design and construction phases through project close-out. Under the Design-Build delivery method, substantial project development occurs after contract execution, including design progression, constructability review, scheduling, and cost refinement. OIG Contract Oversight Specialists attended recurring coordination meetings among the County, the design professional, and the contractor, and reviewed project documentation to observe contract administration practices, evaluate decision-making related to scope and schedule, and identify potential risk areas.

The project includes a three-level eastward expansion of the South Terminal with six new aircraft contact gates, construction of an associated apron and jet fuel hydrant system, a Ground Support Equipment maintenance facility, and significant modifications to the existing Baggage Handling System, including a connection between the Central and South Terminals. The additional infrastructure is intended to improve aircraft circulation, passenger flow, and baggage connectivity while providing replacement capacity for aging facilities and supporting future terminal redevelopment.

As the project transitions from design development to active construction, the OIG remains committed to continuous monitoring. The Contract Oversight Unit will continue to track construction activities, evaluate contractor performance, and monitor risk areas. The OIG intends to remain a permanent fixture in project coordination through close-out to ensure the expansion is delivered with integrity and fiscal responsibility.

## MIA Airport Operations Center

The OIG became involved in the Airport Operations Center (AOC) project after concerns arose during the original competitive solicitation, and the recommendation to reject all bids was under consideration. The solicitation, issued in January 2025, generated significant industry participation; however, revisions to the bid pricing structure created inconsistencies among proposals that prevented MDAD from identifying an apparent low bidder. MDAD subsequently recommended rejection of the bids, and the Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution R-898-25 directing the Department to re-advertise the project within an accelerated timeframe to preserve the integrity of the competitive process. OIG oversight began during the re-solicitation phase to observe procurement activities and monitor compliance with applicable County procurement requirements.

The project consists of renovating approximately 14,780 square feet of unfinished shell space in the North Terminal to consolidate the existing AOC and Emergency Operations Center into a single integrated facility. The AOC will serve as the airport's operational command hub, supporting daily airport operations, emergency coordination, and communication among airport personnel, airlines, and federal agencies. The upgraded facility will incorporate enhanced life-safety systems, communications infrastructure, and operational technologies intended to improve coordination, situational awareness, and continuity of operations.

Following re-advertisement, three bids were received. MDAD conducted a responsibility review of the apparent low bidder to confirm scope coverage, financial capability, and operational capacity. The recommended award amount of approximately \$16.8 million was lower than the pricing received during the original solicitation while maintaining the intended project scope.

Because the AOC will function as a centralized coordination center for airport operations and emergency response, the project has significant operational importance and public visibility. The OIG will continue to monitor the procurement and subsequent contract administration activities to promote transparency, accountability, and a fair competitive process while supporting the timely delivery of this critical airport infrastructure improvement.

## Fixed Base Operators at Opa-Locka Airport

On April 9, 2025, the OIG received a complaint from a Part 135 all-cargo operator at Miami-Opa Locka Executive Airport (OPF). The complainant alleged that three Fixed Base Operators (FBOs) at OPF were violating key lease obligations and engaging in unfair business practices that effectively



Figure 5: Source: MDAD - Miami-Opa locka Executive (OPF)

forced cargo operators off the airfield by raising prices and refusing to provide ramp access. The complainant asserted that it had operated at OPF for many years as an FBO subtenant but faced the loss of space after a 30-day eviction notice and an inability to secure comparable accommodations.

This complaint stood out because of its convergence of local lease administration with federal airport compliance. The complainant framed the dispute as more than a private lease issue, citing the “Quality of Service” and “Nondiscriminatory Prices” provisions contained in the FBO master leases, and alleging potential violations of FAA Grant Assurances, particularly Economic Nondiscrimination (Assurance 22) and Exclusive Rights (Assurance 23), along with related sponsor obligations. Shortly after filing with the OIG, the complainant also submitted an airport compliance complaint to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA issued an informal Part 13 notification to MDAD on April 25, 2025, identifying potential concerns and requesting detailed responses regarding event closures, available aeronautical land, overflow parking, rates and charges, treatment of Part 135 cargo operators, and eviction practices. MDAD submitted its formal response on June 3, 2025, denying discrimination, describing limited developable land and operational constraints, and outlining interim accommodations and alternative options for the complainant.

The OIG conducted a preliminary inquiry by reviewing complaint materials, FAA correspondence, MDAD’s response, and the relevant OPF FBO master leases; and consulting with MDAD personnel. The review determined that the central issues were primarily commercial and contractual disputes between private parties, coupled with policy and operational decisions subject to FAA oversight. As these matters largely fall within the FAA’s jurisdiction as the federal compliance authority for airport-sponsor obligations, the FAA is the appropriate entity to determine OPF’s compliance with grant assurances, a process in which MDAD is already actively engaged.

Furthermore, the complainant continues to operate at OPF under a new 12-month lease facilitated by MDAD, and the matters are being addressed through appropriate administrative channels, including MDAD’s internal property and planning processes. Accordingly, since these issues are

fundamentally commercial and administrative, are already being addressed by the relevant authorities, the OIG is satisfied that this matter will be resolved through these existing channels without the need for further OIG action.

## **MIA Central Terminal Redevelopment**

In its 2024 Annual Report, the OIG disclosed that it would monitor the procurement process for the Miami International Airport (MIA) Central Terminal Redevelopment – Phase 2 (RFP No. A24AV02). The Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) sought to retain one qualified consultant or team of firms under a non-exclusive Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with a seven-year term, valued at \$39 million, to provide architectural and engineering (A/E) services. The project scope includes modernization of infrastructure and technology systems, enhancements to accessibility, improvements in operational efficiency, and strengthened security measures, among other upgrades.

The OIG has monitored the Tier I evaluation meeting conducted by the Competitive Selection Committee (CSC), at which the CSC ranked eight proposers. The CSC advanced the four highest-ranked firms to Tier II for oral presentations.

In May 2024, Administrative Order (AO) 3-39 was replaced by Implementing Order (IO) 3-68, which incorporated criteria for the evaluation and scoring of Locally Headquartered Businesses in professional services procurements.

The OIG also monitored the Tier II oral presentations and the subsequent evaluation meeting. Following the CSC's final rankings the OIG monitored negotiations between the County's negotiation team and the top-ranked firm. On May 20, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved, via Resolution No. R-478-25, the Professional Services Agreement to the top ranked firm.

## **2. Water And Sewer Department (WASD)**

The OIG has conducted on-site oversight of WASD since March 2000, when WASD provided the OIG with office space at its administrative headquarters building. An MOU with the department was executed in January 2001.

Since our creation, the OIG has always been involved in providing oversight and inspectional services for WASD's capital improvement programs (CIPs), including the original pump station improvement program in 1999; the High Yield Disinfection Program in the mid-2000s; and the current capital program highlighted by the federal Consent Decree filed in 2013, the successor pump station improvement program, and the State of Florida's Ocean Outfall Legislation.

Throughout 2025, the OIG continued its oversight presence at WASD. The OIG has one contract oversight specialist designated as its primary representative in matters relating to WASD's CIP, as well as other construction, goods, and services contracts. The OIG has also dedicated investigative resources for WASD issues as needed. OIG staff have participated in meetings with the WASD CIP

leadership team, procurement staff, operations personnel, and external program managers to stay abreast of the multiple and shared goals of the different divisions of the department. The following summary highlights one of our current and more notable oversight activities.

## Countywide Turnkey Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Solution

The OIG continued to monitor the Turnkey Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Solution for the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD), a countywide initiative to replace the County's manual water-meter reading system with an

integrated "smart" metering network. The goal of this project is to modernize utility operations by deploying advanced meters and cloud-based software capable of remotely collecting hourly water-usage data, improving customer service, and strengthening revenue management. The system is also expected to enhance operational efficiency, reduce water losses, and support a transition to monthly billing and customer access to detailed consumption information.

The procurement was originally advertised through a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued in May 2023. In September 2023, three proposals were received in response to the RFP, but ultimately, two of the proposals contained exceptions, which were determined non-responsive by the County Attorney's Office (CAO). The CAO also determined that the third proposal was non-compliant. Additionally, a fourth proposal was received after the County deadline and was not accepted. In March 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution rejecting all proposals and authorizing continuation of the evaluation process, allowing the County to review all four submissions received. A Competitive Selection Committee conducted formal evaluations and oral presentations during mid-2024 and ranked the proposers in accordance with the solicitation criteria.

Negotiations with the highest-ranked proposer began in August 2024 and continued through March 25, 2025. During this period, the OIG attended multiple internal strategy sessions and negotiation meetings to address contract terms, scope of work, service-level requirements, and pricing. The final draft of the negotiated agreement resulted in a comprehensive, turnkey solution that includes hardware, software, installation, training, maintenance, and customer-facing tools to help residents monitor water usage and identify potential leaks. The project is notable due to its technical complexity and scale. Implementation is expected to involve replacing and installing approximately



Figure 6: Source: WASD - Central District Wastewater Treatment Plant (CDWWTP)

499,000 meters across a large geographic service area, affecting nearly all water customers in the County. It is estimated that the cost will be in excess of \$270 million over 20 years. The system is also designed to be expandable to support additional sensors and future operational applications. Because the project introduces new technology that directly interacts with the public and utility billing, it has received significant policy and operational attention.

Currently, the procurement process has concluded negotiations and advanced toward formalizing the contract award. The OIG will continue to monitor the project to promote transparency and accountability as the County transitions to a modernized water-metering system intended to improve both operational efficiency and customer experience.

### **3. Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)**

Starting in January 2006 the OIG entered into an MOU with the former Miami-Dade Transit Agency. The agreement was extended September 2025, with DTPW to provide the OIG with reimbursement for audit and oversight activities related to work on the Transit Enterprise Fund. For other OIG investigations, audits, and oversight activities involving contracts not funded in whole or in part through the Transit Enterprise Fund, and which do not carry the quarter of one percent IG Contract Fee, the OIG and DTPW will confer to determine whether reimbursement is available through other sources of revenue.

#### **Inspection of Railcar Spare Parts Inventory**

The OIG initiated this contract oversight review, at the request of DTPW management. Senior administrators were concerned about the lack of spare parts for the maintenance and repair of new railcars particularly because the purchase contract for the new railcars required the vendor to supply \$18 million in spare parts. The oversight was turned over to the Audit unit to properly determine the reason for the shortage of parts and the elevated number of unavailable railcars. The Contract Oversight Unit continued to provide support during the Audit review.

As noted earlier in the Audit Section of this report, the OIG found no evidence of mismanagement or negligence by DTPW personnel. Instead, the review identified systemic issues that contributed to delays in establishing a robust inventory. Many of these concerns are being addressed through administrative action and the implementation of the Mobility Sourcing Program (MSP). The MSP, an expedited acquisition of proprietary and essential transit parts and services, including railcars spare parts, from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), Original Equipment Suppliers, and specialty suppliers, was approved by the Board of County Commissioners via Resolution R-548-25, on June 3, 2025.

The OIG's Investigative Analyst Unit assisted the work of the Contract Oversight and Audit units by conducting the background reviews, pursuant to the BCC's resolution, of the DTPW employees designated to lead the MSP. The reviews included developing a Neutrality/Disclosure Form through which the employees' affirmed and acknowledged their responsibility to comply with the Conflict of

Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, Sec. 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County and certified that they are free of certain specific conflicts relating to the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Original Equipment Suppliers (OES), and other specialized vendors for procurement under the MSP. The OIG's primary focus was on identifying risk factors given the fiduciary nature of the assignment relating to the MSP.

## **Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS)**

The Miami-Dade County Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) project involves upgrading traffic controllers and installing new video detection systems at the County's 2,900 intersections. Since its inception during the procurement phases and as the contracts have progressed, the OIG has been providing contract oversight services to the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW).

The oversight has included monitoring the contract award and initial implementation. Due to construction delays and integration issues, the initial contract award was terminated by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). At the same time, the BCC instructed DTPW to negotiate a completion contract. As a result of these decisions, the OIG continued to monitor the project but shifted its focus from project implementation to contract negotiations. OIG contract oversight specialists attended numerous in-person negotiation meetings, reviewed pricing proposals, and proposed contract language.

On October 16, 2024, the BCC adopted Resolution R-933-24 which awarded Contract No. BW-10523 to Horsepower Electric, Inc. (HPE) for a term of ten years to implement the ATMS. The OIG continues to provide oversight of the HPE contract with the contract oversight specialists attending numerous in-person and virtual progress meetings, being included in all correspondence related to the project .

## **South Dade Bus Rapid Transit Corridor**

Throughout 2025, OIG contract oversight specialists continued to monitor the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations strategically located along the 20-mile South-Dade TransitWay. Contract oversight monitoring included attendance at monthly progress meetings and site visits along this path.

The new service spans between SW 344<sup>th</sup> Street in Florida City and the Dadeland South Metrorail Station. The 14 new stations provide level boarding, air-conditioned waiting areas, bike-friendly boarding, phone charging locations and free Wi-Fi. Both the 60' battery electric buses and the station center platforms are designed for level boarding and the fares are to be collected as patrons enter the BRT stations.

On October 22, 2025, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Metro Express, the County's first BRT was held at the S.W 152<sup>nd</sup> Street BRT Station.

## 4. Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)

An MOU with DSWM was first executed in October 2004 with the most recent agreement in effect until September 2029. The OIG continues to monitor the efforts to offset the loss of the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Doral since the Superbowl Sunday fire that shut down operations on February 12, 2023.

The OIG monitored efforts to address the loss of this critical disposal facility. Historically, the RRF processed approximately one million tons of waste annually through its waste-to-energy (WTE) plant. Despite this loss of capacity, existing landfill disposal contracts were scaled up to manage the full waste stream without service disruption. Over the past year, one disposal firm began transporting waste by rail to a landfill in Okeechobee County. On September 4, 2024, the BCC approved a new long-term disposal agreement extending through 2035, with two 10-year renewal options through 2055.

The OIG continues to monitor development efforts to determine whether to rebuild the former RRF or construct a new WTE facility at an alternate site. This includes oversight of how its bond engineering consultant, and its design criteria professional and owner's representative for a potential new WTE plant, are being utilized and their progress.

Although technical reports and recommendations have been generated, no final decision has been made. The OIG will continue to monitor developments.

## B. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES IN OTHER AREAS

### PortMiami Phytosanitary Treatment, Fumigation, and Cold Chain Processing Facility



Figure 7: Source: Seaport

In February 2025, the OIG received an anonymous complaint alleging that improper procurement procedures were followed in awarding a long-term lease for a new Phytosanitary Treatment and Cold Chain Processing Facility (Contract No. EVN0002820). The complainant requested that the OIG “investigate if proper procurement procedures were followed” and whether the selected firm was “properly and fairly evaluated compared to other participants.”

This facility is a complex, revenue-generating public-private development intended to strengthen Miami-Dade’s role as a principal U.S. trade gateway to Central and South America and the Caribbean. The plan is to build a state-of-the-art facility that combines USDA-compliant phytosanitary treatment (used to eliminate pests and diseases from imported agricultural goods) with cold-chain processing services, including refrigerated storage, warehousing, and value-added handling of perishables. County projections estimate approximately \$206.8 million in revenue over the initial 35-year term, and approximately \$318.3 million if two five-year renewal options are exercised. The project is supported by a federal Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant (up to \$33.5 million, subject to eligible cost rules and compliance), with additional PortMiami funding and potential MDAD reimbursement for verified site remediation if required by environmental regulators. The overall facility is estimated at approximately \$141 million, with the tenant expected to finance most costs.

The OIG received the complaint after the bid protest period lapsed and the award had progressed through the County’s legislative process. Nonetheless, the OIG reviewed the award documentation, observed that the item advanced without opposition at the Appropriations Committee (March 12, 2025, 4-0 vote) and the full Board of County Commissioners (April 1, 2025, 13-0 vote). The OIG also reviewed the underlying solicitation history, including the Request for Proposals issued on September 22, 2023, the two proposals received by February 7, 2024, and the Competitive Selection

Committee’s Tier 1 and Tier 2 evaluations (including oral presentations). The OIG found no discrepancies in the responsiveness determinations, evaluation process, or scoring methodology, and noted that the County Attorney’s Office issued a legal opinion concluding both proposals were responsive. In addition, the OIG consulted PortMiami and MDAD procurement leadership, who reported no indications of malfeasance, bid protests, or concerns regarding the solicitation or award.

Based on this preliminary inquiry, the OIG determined the complaint’s allegations were general and unsupported by specific facts, and the available record did not indicate irregularities in the procurement or award process. Accordingly, with no additional substantiating information, the OIG concluded that no further inquiry was warranted and is satisfied that the procurement was conducted in accordance with applicable procedures.

## Realignment of North Bulkhead Berths 1-6

The OIG continued monitoring Miami-Dade County’s procurement to reconstruct and realign PortMiami’s 7,168-foot North Bulkhead serving Cruise Berths 1–6 (Project No. DB21-SEA-01). This program is a critical infrastructure effort to address the age and condition of the Port’s existing bulkhead system while preserving cruise operations, an essential economic driver for Miami-Dade County. The work is sequenced to take only one berth out of service during each off-peak cruise season (May 15 through October 15), resulting in a multi-year delivery horizon and requiring precise schedule discipline to avoid cruise disruption.

The procurement was initially programmed in the County’s FY 2013–14 Capital Plan but was later rescope as vessel sizes increased and the need for berth reliability and construction flexibility became more pronounced. On October 22, 2021, the County advertised the project as a Design-Build-Finance (DBF) procurement. The DBF model required the successful proposer to finance construction costs over a period expected to exceed five years. From the outset, the OIG was involved and raised concerns that contractor financing would likely carry higher borrowing costs than County-issued debt, potentially increasing overall project costs and limiting value to taxpayers.

As the procurement advanced, the project’s technical and financial complexity became a defining challenge, causing multiple proposers to withdraw. The OIG repeatedly flagged that financial ambiguity and evolving risk allocation would erode competition and diminish pricing leverage. By mid-2023, Seaport and the Strategic Procurement Department recognized the original approach had become cumbersome and risked a single-bidder outcome. In response, and with the OIG’s consultation and guidance informed by its prior experience, the County pivoted to a two-step “Pre-Development” Interim Agreement (IA) model in late 2024. This structure previously helped preserve competition and advance the procurement process. In addition, this model also helped preserve the County’s ability to proceed later under either a Design-Build (DB) or DBF model.

On November 6, 2024, the County received multiple IA proposals, and on June 26, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved the IA with OHLA USA, Inc. (Resolution No. R-577-25). The IA also included a standby provision keeping the second-ranked firm available should negotiations fail or performance issues arise. Field investigations commenced in July 2025, beginning at Berth 1

(Terminal G), to generate the data needed to refine scope, quantify risk, and support a final Project Agreement.

Given the project's scale and complexity, the Seaport also procured companion Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI)/owner-representative services (NTPC Project No. E25SP01), on July 1, 2025, under the Mayor's delegated authority. This contract supports technical review of IA deliverables, value engineering, and auditability of open-book pricing. The OIG was also consulted in drafting this agreement and recommended that the Port revise the consultant agreement to require the retention of personnel time-utilization records for Lump Sum Task Authorizations. This recommendation stemmed from a prior OIG [audit](#) of the Water and Sewer Department, which identified that the absence of supporting labor documentation hindered the County's ability to verify performance, evaluate value received, and conduct meaningful post-performance reviews. The Seaport accepted the recommendation and incorporated the requirement into the agreement.

Recognizing its broader benefit, the OIG subsequently issued a [memorandum](#) to the Strategic Procurement Department advocating that similar language be standardized across all County professional service agreements. Countywide implementation of this recommendation will strengthen accountability, improve auditability, and enhance contract oversight for future procurements. This effort illustrates how oversight activities on a single project can produce lasting operational improvements for the County as a whole and reflects the collaborative role of departments working toward the shared objective of protecting public resources.

The OIG remains engaged in monitoring both the IA and the CEI contract to promote transparency, preserve competition and cost controls, and support accountable decision-making as the program advances toward final design and construction.

## **Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office – Law Enforcement Records Management System (LERMS)**

At the inception of this review, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office (MDSO) was the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD), a department of Miami-Dade County, and subject to the jurisdiction of the OIG. In 2018, Amendment 10 to Article VIII, of the Florida Constitution was passed by Florida voters removing the ability of Charter Counties from effecting changes to the selection by election, the terms, and the duties of county constitutional officers. The Amendment provided that the changes did not become effective as to Miami-Dade County until January 2025, at that time MDPD became MDSO, headed by the elected Sheriff.

Prior to the transition the OIG initiated monitoring of this procurement during the negotiations phase due to a pending preliminary inquiry concerning a potential Cone of Silence issue. During negotiations, the top-ranked firm, Niche Technology USA Limited, Inc. (Niche), announced it had hired a former County employee and Competitive Selection Committee (CSC) voting member associated with this solicitation and requested his participation in negotiations. The Strategic Procurement Department (SPD) denied the request pursuant to Section 2-11.1 of the County Code,

and Niche acknowledged and complied.

The OIG formally opened a contract oversight review and conducted interviews, reviews of employment and procurement records, analysis of CSC score sheets, and consulted with the Commission on Ethics. The OIG found no evidence that prospective employment influenced the former CSC member's scoring or that Niche received any improper advantage.

Following the transition resulting from Amendment 10, the OIG coordinated with the Sheriff's office to confirm its acceptance of and continued support for implementation of the LERMS solution.

On June 3, 2025, the Board approved award of the contract to Niche in an amount not to exceed \$16,596,242 for a five-year term with two five-year options to renew. The LERMS solution will replace legacy systems, centralize law enforcement records, enhance data accuracy and reporting capabilities, and support required federal crime reporting.

## **Housing and Community Development (HCD) – Property Management Services**

Following an investigation into the practices and compliance of the vendor contracted to manage the department of Housing and Community Services' (HCD's) affordable housing portfolio, the Contract Oversight Unit performed a review of the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for Property Management Services for the succeeding contract. The OIG's goal was to ascertain if the specifications and scope provided sufficient protection to prevent recurrences of previously noted deficiencies and to provide better internal controls.

Contract Oversight Specialists monitoring the process identified a responsiveness concern regarding a proposer's fee format and notified the Strategic Procurement Department (SPD). On February 18, 2024, the Mayor's designee rejected all proposals and the solicitation was terminated.

During this oversight assignment, the OIG discovered an ancillary issue involving a bridge contract awarded to the incumbent provider as a bid waiver under the Mayor's delegated authority. OIG monitoring determined that expenditures would exceed the original \$250,000 cap and recommended corrective action. In July 2025, the BCC ratified \$94,196 in prior over-expenditures, increased total authority to \$1,717,280, and extended the contract through January 31, 2027.

## New Civil and Probate Courthouse

The OIG has monitored the new Civil and Probate Courthouse project, the County's first Public Private Partnership (P3) procurement, since its inception. The OIG's review began in January 2018 when the OIG first learned that the County received an unsolicited proposal. The OIG continued its oversight of the two-phased RFP that became the final procurement through the design of the facility, and the construction of the building at 20 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

As part of that endeavor the OIG's oversight included two investigations during the course of the procurement process, one regarding an inadvertent transmission of confidential information and the other a review of potential conflicts of interest. As a result of our oversight and investigations, recommendations were made that have been adopted resulting in improvements that are now a part of the County's processes. Implemented based on OIG recommendations were:

- Revisions to the Key Stakeholder Section of the solicitation documents to ensure there were no prohibited direct, undocumented, communications with key stakeholders – for this project that included the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Clerk of Courts, and the judiciary, all of which were not subject to County's Cone of Silence.
- Strengthening of the RFP language to safeguard against potential conflicts by ensuring that none of the County's consultants and advisors – necessary for the P3 – would not be involved with a proposer.
- Revisions to the County's Neutrality Affidavit ensuring against potential conflicts of interest

Contract oversight specialists attended numerous meetings with County project managers, designers, construction teams, attorneys, and agencies with jurisdiction over the project. This close involvement allowed the OIG an opportunity to effectively provide suggestions and support to the County in this unique endeavor. The County's project management staff along with the contracted consultants, in their roles as Owner's Representatives, were actively involved on a daily basis, not only in the supervision of this P3 but also in the procurement of some of the key components of the buildings Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E).

November 10, 2025, marked the date of the Grand Opening of the Osvaldo N. Soto Miami Dade Justice Center, as it was named. Executive staff and Contract Oversight staff from the OIG participated in the well-attended ceremony. The OIG will continue monitoring the project into the new phase of management.

## MetroCenter Redevelopment

The OIG continues to monitor a County-initiated, landmark project to transform the urban landscape of downtown Miami. The MetroCenter Redevelopment Project will reimagine the area that includes the Stephen P. Clark Government Center and multiple County facilities. The project spans approximately 17 acres of County-owned property within the Government Center Rapid Transit Zone, governed by Chapter 33-11(c) of the County Code and subject to County zoning and permitting requirements.

MetroCenter currently includes about 3.3 million square feet of County-owned improvements. The long-term vision for the 11 primary sites anticipates 17–23 million square feet of new development, including commercial uses and affordable housing. Phase 1 of the RFP was advertised on February 10, 2023, and three firms advanced to Phase 2 to compete for selection as Master Developer.

The Master Developer will oversee permitting, financing, construction, and delivery of infrastructure and site improvements needed to prepare development pads for vertical construction. Due to the project’s complexity, the County retained outside counsel and consultants to support refinement of Phase 2. As of the close of 2024, eight addenda had been issued.

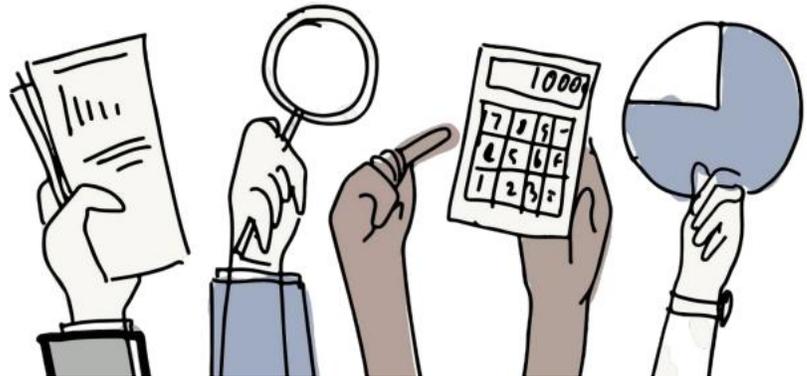
In 2026, the County met with the vendor recommended to proceed to negotiations. The OIG continues to monitor negotiations, vendor responsiveness, and the eventual award of a Master Developer.

## C. MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

During the past 12 months, OIG contract oversight specialists attended and monitored over 257 procurement-related meetings. These meetings include Competitive Selection Committee Evaluation meetings, internal strategy meetings, and negotiations meetings. In addition, for major procurements and capital projects that the OIG monitored through procurement and award, contract oversight specialists attended meetings to monitor progress through the design and implementation/construction phases. Our contract oversight specialists monitor construction progress meetings to ensure that performance is consistent with the terms and conditions of the contracts.

As work transitions implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic have been phased out, the OIG contract oversight specialists have to attend more meetings in person, a task hampered by challenges including increased travel time, location logistics, and staff limitations. In addition to monitoring procurement meetings, the OIG contract oversight specialists also monitor other meetings of importance to the County and its operations.

## Special Task Force To Reduce Inefficiencies In Procurement (STRIP) task force



The OIG, through its Contract Oversight Unit, monitors the Special Task Force to Reduce Inefficiencies in Procurement (STRIP). The Task Force was created in 2024 by the Board of County Commissioners to review the County’s procurement laws, procedures, and practices and to recommend changes intended to reduce delays, increase competition, and improve participation by local and small businesses.

Miami-Dade relies on procurement to deliver nearly all public services, ranging from routine operational purchases to major construction, professional services, leases, and public-private partnerships. These contracts are governed by a complex framework of County, state, and federal requirements, which has produced a highly procedural system. STRIP was established to determine whether those rules remain efficient and to identify opportunities to streamline the process without sacrificing accountability.

STRIP is largely informed by the private sector. Its members include professionals who regularly compete for government contracts and have identified practical barriers such as lengthy solicitation timelines, heavy compliance documentation, and administrative steps that increase cost and risk. The Task Force has evaluated the procurement lifecycle from project identification through award and contract performance, including delegated authority thresholds, local preference and small business measures, and the County’s electronic procurement systems. An [interim report](#) issued preliminary recommendations focused on standardizing procedures, improving system integration, clarifying evaluation practices, and shortening procurement cycle times.

OIG monitoring provides early visibility into potential rule changes that may affect transparency, competition, and enforcement. While STRIP examines system-wide inefficiencies at the policy level, the OIG reviews the real-time implementation of individual contracts. Observing the Task Force, therefore, helps the OIG anticipate how future contracts may be structured and whether proposed reforms will improve efficiency while preserving safeguards.

The OIG will continue to monitor the Task Force’s meetings and developments to ensure that proposed reforms maintain appropriate accountability and protect taxpayer funds.

## X. SAVINGS, FINANCIAL RECOVERIES, AND OTHER PERFORMANCE METRICS

### Identified Financial Impacts

In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, OIG investigations, audits, inspections, and other reviews identified \$421,318.59 in damages and losses due to theft, fraud, and abuse and \$1,037,790.53 in questioned costs. As a result of these cases, and others that began in earlier years, OIG cases in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 have given rise to over \$15,826,032.69 savings and funds put to better use, and have brought \$507,199.99 in recoveries, repayments, and court-imposed restitution.



### Criminal Charges Filed and Criminal Dispositions Reached

In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, OIG investigations resulting in criminal charges filed against eleven individuals. The cases were prosecuted in state and federal court and resulted in sentences ranging from 34 months prison to probation.

### OIG Reports and Publications

The OIG issued 42 reports and 16 advisory memoranda during Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The reports include audit reports, contract oversight reports, reports of investigation and other case closing reports. Advisory memoranda include notifications regarding the closure of OIG cases, including announcements of arrests and sentencing in criminal cases.

### Looking Ahead

The OIG remains committed to serving the residents of Miami-Dade County by promoting integrity, accountability, and transparency in government. In 2026, we will focus on:

- Expanding our data analytics capabilities to proactively identify potential fraud and abuse.
- Strengthening our partnerships with other investigative, audit, and regulatory agencies.
- Increasing public awareness of the OIG's role and responsibilities.

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## **XI. APPENDIX: CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY Sec. 2-1076 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

(a) Created and established. There is hereby created and established the Office of Miami-Dade County Inspector General. The Inspector General shall head the Office. The organization and administration of the Office of the Inspector General shall be sufficiently independent to assure that no interference or influence external to the Office adversely affects the independence and objectivity of the Inspector General.

(b) Minimum Qualifications, Appointment and Term of Office.

(1) Minimum qualifications. The Inspector General shall be a person who:

(a) Has at least ten (10) years of experience in any one, or combination of, the following fields:

- (i) as a Federal, State or local Law Enforcement Officer;
- (ii) as a Federal or State court judge;
- (iii) as a Federal, State or local government attorney;
- (iv) progressive supervisory experience in an investigative public agency similar to an inspector general's office;

(b) Has managed and completed complex investigations involving allegations of fraud, theft, deception and conspiracy;

(c) Has demonstrated the ability to work with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the judiciary; and

(d) Has a four-year degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.

(2) Appointment. The Inspector General shall be appointed by the Ad Hoc Inspector General Selection Committee ("Selection Committee"), except that before any appointment shall become effective, the appointment must be approved by a majority of the whole number of members of the Board of County Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled County Commission meeting after the appointment. In the event that the appointment is disapproved by the County Commission, the appointment shall become null and void, and the Selection Committee shall make a new appointment, which shall likewise be submitted for approval by the County Commission.

The Selection Committee shall be composed of five members selected as follows:

- (a) The State Attorney of the 11th Judicial Circuit for Miami-Dade County;
- (b) The Public Defender of the 11th Judicial Circuit for Miami-Dade County;

- (c) The Chairperson of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust;
- (d) The President of the Miami-Dade Police Chief's Association; and
- (e) The Special Agent In Charge of the Miami Field Office of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

The members of the Selection Committee shall elect a chairperson who shall serve as chairperson until the Inspector General is appointed. The Selection Committee shall select the Inspector General from a list of qualified candidates submitted by the Miami-Dade County Employee Relations Department.

(3) Term. The Inspector General shall be appointed for a term of four years. In case of a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, the Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners may appoint the deputy inspector general, assistant inspector general, or other Inspector General's office management personnel as interim Inspector General until such time as a successor Inspector General is appointed in the same manner as described in subsection (b)(2) above. The Commission may by majority vote of members present disapprove of the interim appointment made by the Chairperson at the next regularly scheduled County Commission meeting after the appointment. In the event such appointment shall be disapproved by the County Commission, the appointment shall become null and void and, prior to the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting, the Chairperson shall make a new appointment which shall likewise be subject to disapproval as provided in this subsection (3). Any successor appointment made by the Selection Committee as provided in subsection (b)(2) shall be for the full four-year term.

Upon expiration of the term, the Board of County Commissioners may by majority vote of members present reappoint the Inspector General to another term. In lieu of reappointment, the Board of County Commissioners may reconvene the Selection Committee to appoint the new Inspector General in the same manner as described in subsection (b) (2). The incumbent Inspector General may submit his or her name as a candidate to be considered for selection and appointment.

(4) Staffing of Selection Committee. The Miami-Dade County Employee Relations Department shall provide staffing to the Selection Committee and as necessary will advertise the acceptance of resumes for the position of Inspector General and shall provide the Selection Committee with a list of qualified candidates. The County Employee Relations Department shall also be responsible for ensuring that background checks are conducted on the slate of candidates selected for interview by the Selection Committee. The County Employee Relations Department may refer the background checks to another agency or department.

The results of the background checks shall be provided to the Selection Committee prior to the interview of candidates.

(c) Contract. The Director of the Employee Relations Department shall, in consultation with the County Attorney, negotiate a contract of employment with the Inspector General, except that before any contract shall become effective, the contract must be approved by a majority of Commissioners present at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

(d) Functions, Authority and Powers.

(1) The Office shall have the authority to make investigations of County affairs and the power to review past, present and proposed County and Public Health Trust programs, accounts, records, contracts and transactions.

(2) The Office shall have the power to require reports from the Mayor, County Commissioners, Manager, County agencies and instrumentalities, County officers and employees and the Public Health Trust and its officers and employees regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Inspector General.

(3) The Office shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of records. In the case of a refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, the Inspector General may make application to any circuit court of this State which shall have jurisdiction to order the witness to appear before the Inspector General and to produce evidence if so ordered, or to give testimony touching on the matter in question. Prior to issuing a subpoena, the Inspector General shall notify the State Attorney and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. The Inspector General shall not interfere with any ongoing criminal investigation of the State Attorney or the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida where the State Attorney or the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida has explicitly notified the Inspector General in writing that the Inspector General's investigation is interfering with an ongoing criminal investigation.

(4) The Office shall have the power to report and/or recommend to the Board of County Commissioners whether a particular project, program, contract or transaction is or was necessary and, if deemed necessary, whether the method

used for implementing the project or program is or was efficient both financially and operationally. Any review of a proposed project or program shall be performed in such a manner as to assist the Board of County Commissioners in determining whether the project or program is the most feasible solution to a particular need or problem. Monitoring of an existing project or program may include reporting whether the project is on time, within budget and in conformity with plans, specifications, and applicable law.

(5) The Office shall have the power to analyze the need for, and the reasonableness of, proposed change orders. The Inspector General shall also be

authorized to conduct any reviews, audits, inspections, investigations or analyses relating to departments, offices, boards, activities, programs and agencies of the County and the Public Health Trust.

(6) The Inspector General may, on a random basis, perform audits, inspections and reviews of all County contracts. The cost of random audits, inspections and reviews shall, except as provided in (a)-(n) in this subsection (6), be incorporated into the contract price of all contracts and shall be one quarter (1/4) of one (1) percent of the contract price (hereinafter "IG contract fee").

The IG contract fee shall not apply to the following contracts:

- (a) IPSIG contracts;
- (b) Contracts for legal services;
- (c) Contracts for financial advisory services;
- (d) Auditing contracts;
- (e) Facility rentals and lease agreements;
- (f) Concessions and other rental agreements;
- (g) Insurance contracts;
- (h) Revenue-generating contracts;
- (i) Contracts where an IPSIG is assigned at the time the contract is approved by the Commission;
- (j) Professional service agreements under one thousand dollars;
- (k) Management agreements;
- (l) Small purchase orders as defined in Administrative Order 3-2;
- (m) Federal, state and local government-funded grants; and
- (n) Interlocal agreements;
- (o) Grant Agreements granting not-for-profit organizations Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program funds.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission may by resolution specifically authorize the inclusion of the IG contract fee in any contract. Nothing contained in this subsection (c)(6) shall in any way limit the powers of the Inspector General provided for in this section to perform audits, inspections, reviews and investigations on all County contracts including, but not limited to, those contracts specifically exempted from the IG contract fee.

(7) Where the Inspector General detects corruption or fraud, he or she shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Subsequent to notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency, the Inspector General may assist the law enforcement agency in concluding the investigation. When the Inspector General detects a violation of one (1) of the ordinances within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, he or she may file a complaint with the Ethics Commission or refer the matter to the Advocate.

(8) The Inspector General shall have the power to audit, investigate, monitor, oversee, inspect and review the operations, activities and performance and procurement process including, but not limited to, project design, establishment of bid specifications, bid submittals, activities of the contractor, its officers, agents and employees, lobbyists, County staff and elected officials in order to ensure compliance with contract specifications and detect corruption and fraud.

(9) The Inspector General shall have the power to review and investigate any citizen's complaints regarding County or Public Health Trust projects, programs, contracts or transactions.

(10) The Inspector General may exercise any of the powers contained in Section 2-1076 upon his or her own initiative.

(11) The Inspector General shall be notified in writing prior to any meeting of a selection or negotiation committee where any matter relating to the procurement of goods or services by the County is to be discussed. The notice required by this subsection (11) shall be given to the Inspector General as soon as possible after a meeting has been scheduled, but in no event later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting. The Inspector General may, at his or her discretion, attend all duly noticed County meetings relating to the procurement of goods or services as provided herein, and, in addition to the exercise of all powers conferred by Section 2-1076, may pose questions and raise concerns consistent with the functions, authority and powers of the Inspector General. An audio tape recorder shall be utilized to record all selection and negotiation committee meetings.

(12) The Inspector General shall have the authority to retain and coordinate the services of Independent Private Sector Inspectors General (IPSIG) or other professional services, as required, when in the Inspector General's discretion he or she concludes that such services are needed to perform the duties and

functions enumerated in subsection (d) herein.

(e) Physical facilities and staff.

(1) The County shall provide the Office of the Inspector General with appropriately located office space and sufficient physical facilities together with necessary office supplies, equipment and furnishings to enable the Office to perform its functions.

(2) The Inspector General shall have, subject to budgetary allocation by the Board of County Commissioners, the power to appoint, employ, and remove such assistants, employees and personnel and establish personnel procedures as deemed necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the activities of the Office.

(f) Procedure for finalization of reports and recommendations which make findings as to the person or entity being reviewed or inspected. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code, whenever the Inspector General concludes a report or recommendation which contains findings as to the person or entity being reported on or who is the subject of the recommendation, the Inspector General shall provide the affected person or entity a copy of the report or recommendation and such person or entity shall have 10 working days to submit a written explanation or rebuttal of the findings before the report or recommendation is finalized, and such timely submitted written explanation or rebuttal shall be attached to the finalized report or recommendation. The requirements of this subsection (f) shall not apply when the Inspector General, in conjunction with the State Attorney, determines that supplying the affected person or entity with such report will jeopardize a pending criminal investigation.

(g) Reporting. The Inspector General shall annually prepare and submit to the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners a written report concerning the work and activities of the Office including, but not limited to, statistical information regarding the disposition of closed investigations, audits and other reviews.

(h) Removal. The Inspector General may be removed from Office upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of members of the Board of County Commissioners.

(i) Abolition of the Office. The Office of the Inspector General shall only be abolished upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of members of the Board of County Commissioners.

(j) Retention of the current Inspector General. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the incumbent Inspector General, Christopher R. Mazzella [<sup>2</sup>], shall serve a four year term of office commencing on December 20, 2009, as provided in the Memorandum of Understanding approved by Resolution No. R-1394-05, and shall not be subject to the appointment process provided for in Section 2-1076(b)(2).

(Ord. No. 97-215, § 1, 12-16-97; Ord. No. 99-63, § 1, 6-8-99; Ord. No. 99-149, § 1, 10-19-99; Ord. No. 00-105, § 1, 7-25-00; Ord. No. 01-114, § 1, 7-10-01; Ord. No. 05-51, § 1, 3-1-05; Ord. No. 06-88, § 2, 6-6-06, Ord. No. 07-165; § 1, 11-6-07)

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<sup>2</sup> Mr. Chris Mazzella, the County's first Inspector General and the incumbent when this subsection was enacted, retired in April 2013. In August of 2020, an Ad Hoc Selection Committee recommended Felix Jimenez to the Board of County Commissioners as the new Inspector General succeeding Inspector General Mary Cagle who served from February 2014 until her retirement in September 2020.

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

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