



Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Rebeca Sosa, Chairperson
And Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From:  Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: February 21, 2013

Subject: Surrender and Guilty Plea in Connection with MIA Hotel Investigation;
Ref. IG10-51

Nestor Aznar (Aznar), former Chief Engineer and Maintenance Supervisor for the Miami International Airport Hotel (MIA Hotel), surrendered in court today following an investigation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO). Aznar, an employee of H.I. Development Corp., was charged with one count of Organized Scheme to Defraud, a first degree felony, in connection with a fraudulent billing scheme by MIA Hotel vendors. H.I. Development Corp. operates the County-owned MIA Hotel pursuant to a management agreement with the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD). It has operated the MIA Hotel since 1989. The OIG initiated the investigation based on information received from the MDAD Office of Professional Compliance about possible fraudulent billing by a hotel vendor.

Aznar, who surrendered and pled guilty today, entered into a plea agreement with the State Attorney's Office. Under the agreement, Aznar will cooperate with the SAO and the OIG in their continuing criminal investigation. Aznar's sentence will be delayed until after he finishes cooperating with authorities. While his full sentence has yet to be determined, it will include paying restitution to MDAD and costs of investigation to the OIG.

The OIG appreciates the cooperation of the MDAD during the course of this investigation.

cc: Jose Abreu, Director, Miami-Dade Aviation Department
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor