




Memorandum



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To: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Honorable Jean Monestime, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: May 5, 2015

Subject: ISD Parking Management Employee Arrested for Grand Theft; Ref. IG15-09

For the past several months, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) have been jointly investigating cash collection functions pertaining to the management of our County parking garages. The Internal Services Department (ISD), upon receiving a complaint from a garage patron that his check for monthly parking had not been cashed for three months, conducted an initial review of the Parking Management Office and found it in complete disarray. Deposits were not being made on a timely basis; cash and checks were found stashed in drawers throughout the office; and significant sums of money were missing. ISD immediately contacted investigative authorities for assistance.

The joint OIG/MDPD investigation involves County employees who worked in the ISD Parking Management Office. Upon discovery of the missing money, Jose Valladares (Valladares) and several other employees were placed on administrative leave. Valladares' job responsibilities involved accepting cash and check payments from both County employees and the public for monthly parking, recording those payments, and then forwarding those monies to a drop box for eventual deposit.

Valladares, an ISD employee since 2012, admitted to OIG and MDPD investigators that he stole somewhere between \$4,000 to \$5,000 in cash from the Parking Management Office. Valladares took the investigators to his home showing them where he kept Miami-Dade County receipts detailing the amount of money he had taken. The receipts totaled \$6,088. A portion of the stolen money—approximately \$1,300—was recovered from his home as well.

Valladares was arrested today and charged with Grand Theft, a third degree felony. The amount of money that Valladares admitted to taking is just a fraction of the amount of money unaccounted for from the Parking Management Office. Working with the State Attorney's Office, more arrests of former Parking Management employees are expected in the future. The OIG and MDPD will continue to work with ISD in uncovering the total theft and pursuing criminal action against the wrongdoers.

cc: Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Edward Marquez, Deputy Mayor
J. D. Patterson, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department
Lester Sola, Director, Internal Services Department
Miriam Singer, Assistant Director Internal Services Department
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor