



Mary T. Cagle

Inspector General

Office of the Inspector General for Miami-Dade County Public Schools

To: The Honorable Chairwoman Perla Tabares Hantman,
and Members, Miami-Dade School Board

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, M-DCPS

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: October 24, 2016

Re: Arrest of Alphonso Thomas, Athletic Director, Cutler Bay Senior High School for
Grand Theft Ref: SB1516-1002

Alphonso Thomas, Athletic Director for Cutler Bay Senior High School (Cutler Bay), was arrested today on one count of felony grand theft. Mr. Thomas, an employee of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) since 1988, surrendered to the Miami-Dade County Jail this morning where he was processed and released on his own recognizance. Mr. Thomas was the athletic director of Cutler Bay during the school year 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. In this position, Mr. Thomas was responsible for supervising all athletic programs at the school. The case against Mr. Thomas was investigated by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) with the assistance of the M-DCPS's Office of Management Compliance Audits (OMCA).

The investigation determined that Mr. Thomas, while working as the athletic director, was stealing funds from student athletes for at least two school years. The OIG investigation was initiated after receiving an anonymous complaint from a parent. The investigation uncovered that during the 2014-2015 school year, Mr. Thomas collected funds from 60 student athletes to purchase School Board approved health insurance. He deposited, however, only the insurance premiums for 38 students, keeping for himself \$660 and leaving 22 students uninsured. Furthermore, during the 2015-2016 school year, Mr. Thomas collected funds from 80 student athletes, \$30 for the health insurance per student athlete and \$20 for an unapproved "athletic fee" from approximately 78 of those student athletes. However, Mr. Thomas failed to purchase the insurance, failed to place the collected money into the schools internal funds account as per School Board Policy, and by his own admission, placed this money into his personal account keeping, at a minimum, a total of \$3,240 that he was not entitled to.

The OIG appreciates the cooperation and assistance of OMCA, Cutler Bay Senior High School, and Miami-Dade Schools Police Department.

cc: Jose Montes de Oca, Chief Auditor, Office of Management and Compliance Audits
Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney
Chief Ian A. Moffett, Miami-Dade Schools Police Department
Joyce Castro, Assistant Superintendent, Office Professional Standards
John Schuster, Chief Communications Officer, Office of Public Relations
Lucas De La Torres, Principal, Cutler Bay Senior High School

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