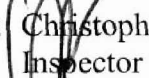


Biscayne Building
19 West Flagler St., Suite 220
Miami, FL 33130
Phone: (305) 375-1946
Fax: (305) 579-2656
www.miamidadeig.org

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

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
The Honorable Chairperson Joe Martinez
Members, Board of County Commissioners

From:  Christopher Mazzella
Inspector General

Date: July 13, 2006

Re: OIG Investigation Results in Monetary Recovery for Miami-Dade County

An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) into fraudulent practices by a contractor in the business of repairing and servicing fire extinguishers for the County and the City of Miami has concluded with a plea agreement. Dallas Raymond Chrans (Chrans), owner of Biscayne-Havana Fire and Safety Equipment Company, Inc., and Scott Alan Knight (Knight), the company's dealer equipment license qualifier were criminally charged. The OIG investigation uncovered fraudulent billing practices involving the servicing of both County and City of Miami fire extinguishers, by Chrans and Knight.

In August of 2004, the case against Mr. Chrans was dismissed following his death. Knight who pled guilty and was adjudicated guilty to one count of Aggravated White Collar Crime was sentenced in February 2005. As of a recent June 2006 report to the Court, Knight has completed the jail portion of his sentence, the community control portion of his sentence and is now serving the probationary portion. Knight was sentenced to ten years probation to follow the jail and house arrest sentences. Additionally, Knight, has paid the costs of investigation to the OIG and is still paying restitution to the City of Miami in the amount of \$7,500 and \$32,500 to Miami-Dade County. During his probationary term, Knight is debarred from contracting or doing business with the City of Miami or Miami-Dade County.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Chief Herminio Lorenzo, Director, Fire Rescue Department
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)