



Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Audrey Edmonson, Chairwoman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General

Date: June 20, 2019

Subject: MDAD Employee Arrested for Forging Supervisor's Signature and Falsifying
County Payroll Documents – Ref. IG18-0017-I

A joint investigation between the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the State Attorney's Office resulted in the arrest of Miami-Dade Aviation Department employee Oregna Jones. Ms. Jones, aka Oregna Harris, was arrested yesterday on charges related to her forging her supervisor's signature and falsifying county payroll documents in order to qualify for low-income housing in Broward County. Ms. Jones, who is a Section Chief assigned to the Real Estate Management and Development Division at Miami International Airport (MIA), has been a County employee since 1999.

The investigation stemmed from an anonymous complaint received by the OIG that Ms. Jones was fraudulently receiving low-income housing. To obtain a residential lease at the Broward low-income housing complex, Ms. Jones was required to provide the complex with an Income Verification form signed by her supervisor, along with paycheck stubs, as proof that her gross income fell below a required threshold. At the time of her application—in 2017—Ms. Jones' income was approximately \$10,000 over the threshold limit. Nevertheless, she informed the complex that she made less money.

The OIG found emails from 2017 where Ms. Jones requested copies of her 2015 payroll records (when her salary was under the low-income housing threshold). Documents obtained from the Broward housing complex's tenant file revealed six Miami-Dade County Payroll History Detail reports that were altered to make it look like they were from 2017. Additionally, the file contained an Income Verification form purportedly signed by her Division Director. The document fraudulently verified that Ms. Jones made less money than she actually did. The investigation confirmed that the Division Director's signature was forged on the Income Verification form, resulting in his identity being stolen. Further, copies of the documents found in the tenant file show that they were all faxed to the housing complex's leasing office from a fax/copier machine located on the 6th floor of MDAD's Executive Offices.

Ms. Jones was arrested on charges of Identity Theft, six counts of Uttering Forged Instruments, and two counts of Wire Fraud—all third degree felonies. The OIG appreciates the assistance of MDAD during this investigation.

cc: Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Lester Sola, Director, MDAD
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit and Management Services Department
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor