



## *News Release*

### **Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General Seeking Accreditation**

The Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) will be undergoing the process of accreditation through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA), Inspector General Chris Mazzella announced today. On May 5, 2010, a team of assessors from the CFA will arrive to examine all aspects of the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General's policies and procedures, management and operations. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The OIG has to comply with approximately 40 standards in order to receive accredited status.

An accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards. Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an entity has met specific requirements and prescribed standards. In 1993, the CFA was formed. Initially the accreditation process was just for law enforcement and correctional agencies. In 2009, the CFA expanded its accreditation program to include offices of inspectors general.

The CFA worked closely with Florida's inspectors general community to develop professional standards for Florida inspector general investigative functions. The CFA is comprised of four sheriffs, four chiefs, and one representative each from the Association of Counties, the League of Cities, the State Law Enforcement Chiefs' Association, the Judiciary, and in 2009, an Inspector General was added.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. A copy of the CFA's standards is available by contacting the OIG's Public Information Officer at 305-375-1946. For more information regarding CFA or for persons wishing to offer written comments about the OIG's ability to meet the standards of accreditation, please write to: The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, 3504 Lake Lynda Drive, Suite 380, Orlando, Florida, 32817.

The CFA Assessment Team Leader is Deputy Chief Joe Monteagudo of the Key Biscayne Police Department. The other team member is Captain Amy Schmidt of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Once the CFA's assessors complete their review of the OIG, they will report back to the full Commission Board, which will then decide if the OIG is to receive accredited status. Accreditation will be for three years. Verification by the team that the OIG meets the CFA's standards is part of a voluntary process to gain or maintain accreditation—a prized recognition that the office's performance and investigative work meets high standards of excellence.

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