



Memorandum

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To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Chairperson Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: July 7, 2010

Re: Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General Receives Accreditation

Inspector General Christopher Mazzella is pleased and proud to announce that on July 1, 2010, the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). Please see the attached news release for additional information pertaining to the OIG receiving accreditation.

Accreditation will provide numerous benefits to the OIG, including subscribing to professionally recognized best business practices and standards and enhancing the consistency and quality of our investigations, to name a few. As we specifically note in our news release, "Receiving accreditation is recognition that the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General's performance and investigative work meets the highest level of professional excellence. Accreditation also provides assurance to the public, public officials and all stakeholders that the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General's work product and results are based on sound investigative practices and industry established standards."

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners and the Administration for its support of the OIG. Accreditation is a significant step forward in solidifying the OIG as an institution and we should all be proud of this achievement.

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Chairperson, Dr. Solomon C. Stinson
and Members, Miami-Dade School Board
Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, M-DCPS
Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General Receives Accreditation

Inspector General Christopher Mazzella is proud to announce that on July 1, 2010, the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General was accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). The CFA accreditation program is a voluntary process, which the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General chose to participate in. This is the Office of the Inspector General's initial accreditation and is valid for a three-year period.

Accreditation programs have 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 program to include Offices of Inspector General.

The CFA worked closely with Florida's Inspectors General 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.

For the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General, receiving accreditation was the culmination of a rigorous review process that was initiated over a year ago, when the CFA expanded its program to include OIGs. On May 5, 2010, a team of assessors from the CFA conducted an on-site assessment of the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General's policies and procedures, management, and operations. The assessors reviewed written materials, interviewed members of the agency, and visited the OIG satellite offices as part of the review process.

The Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General had to comply with 40 standards in order to receive accredited status. Once the CFA's assessors completed their review, they reported back to the full Commission Board, which made the final determination for the OIG to receive accredited status.

Receiving accreditation is recognition that the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General's performance and investigative work meets the highest level of professional excellence. Accreditation also provides assurance to the public, public officials and all stakeholders that the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General's work product and results are based on sound investigative practices and industry established standards.

Any inquiries should be directed to OIG Special Agent James Mazer, (305) 350-0657.