



# 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 8, 2010

Re: Arrest of Water & Sewer Department Employee for Stealing County Tools,  
Ref. IG10-02

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Attached is an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) news release regarding the arrest of Donald L. Richard (Richard), an employee of the Miami-Dade County Water & Sewer Department (WASD) on charges of Organized Scheme to Defraud and Grand Theft. An investigation by the OIG and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO) uncovered a scheme by Richard to purchase tools for the WASD Interama Electrical Shop and secret them to his home.

Richard, a 33-year employee with WASD who has held the position of Interama Plant Electrical Supervisor since 1992, has, thus far, been suspended with pay. Richard hid the purchase of tools and equipment by manipulating an internal control log. By reusing inventory numbers on the log, Richard was able to purchase the tools and keep them for his personal use. During the course of the investigation, the OIG was advised that Richard returned a pressure washer to the Interama Plant. To date, an additional 48 tools have mysteriously appeared at the Interama Electrical Shop that Richard supervised. The value of the tools first recovered by the OIG exceeds \$2,000. The investigation continues into the theft of additional tools and those recently recovered. The OIG wishes to thank WASD for its cooperation in the investigation.

Attachment

cc: George Burgess, County Manager, Miami-Dade County  
Howard Piper, Special Assistant to the County Manager, Miami-Dade County  
John Renfrow, Director, Water & Sewer Department, Miami-Dade County  
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services, Miami-Dade County  
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade County  
Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)



## **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE ARRESTED FOR STEALING COUNTY TOOLS**

The Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) announces today the arrest of Donald L. Richard (Richard), an employee of the Miami-Dade County Water & Sewer Department (WASD), following a joint investigation by the OIG and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office (SAO). Richard, a 33-year employee with WASD, has been a Plant Electrical Supervisor since 1992. Richard, who was assigned to the WASD Interama Plant, has been suspended with pay. Richard was charged with (1) one count of Organized Scheme to Defraud, a third degree felony, and three (3) counts of Grand Theft, third degree felony charges.

The OIG investigation found that Richard, whose duties included purchasing tools and equipment necessary for the Interama Plant, was concealing the purchase of tools and taking them home. Responding to an anonymous complaint, OIG Special Agents went to the Interama Plant looking for 21 tools that had been purchased by WASD and secreted by Richard. During the investigation into the missing tools, Richard admitted to the OIG Special Agents that two tool chests and some tools were at his home. Richard invited the investigators to his home and showed them the tool boxes full of unused, name brand tools. Those tools are being held by OIG Special Agents as evidence. During the course of the investigation, the OIG was advised that Richard returned a pressure washer to the Interama Plant. To date, an additional 48 tools have mysteriously appeared at the Interama Electrical Shop that Richard supervised. The value of those tools has not yet been determined.

Purchases of tools and equipment for the Interama Electrical Shop (IES) were assigned an IES tracking number on an inventory control log. Richard was able to conceal his purchases by manipulating the log—an internal inventory control system that he designed. The log contained notations as to the purchase requests and the deliveries of the items. Richard was able to hide the thefts by reusing IES numbers when ordering new tools. The value of the tools first recovered by the OIG exceeds \$2,000. The investigation continues into the theft of additional tools and those recently recovered.

"It is a shame that a trusted 33-year public employee would toss away his career to put his hands on a few power tools. However, stealing from county government is a violation of the public trust. It can never be tolerated," said Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

The OIG would like to thank WASD for its cooperation in the investigation. Copies of the arrest affidavit are available at the Office of the Inspector General at 19 West Flagler Street, Suite 220, Miami, FL, telephone number (305) 375-1946; or at the State Attorney's Office, c/o Ed Griffith, 1350 N.W. 12 Avenue, Miami, FL, telephone number (305) 547-0535.

OIG News Release IG10-02

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