



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

From:  Christopher R. Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: February 20, 2009

Subject: Full Recovery for the County Following OIG Investigation of Million-Dollar Theft
of Postage Monies by WASD Mailroom Supervisor, Ref. IG06-81

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is pleased to report that Miami-Dade County (the County) has been made whole in the theft of one million dollars by a former County employee of the Water and Sewer Department (WASD). The OIG investigation of WASD mail meter accounts revealed a one million dollar embezzlement scheme, from September 2003 to August 2006, by former County employee Charles Anthony Vance (Vance).

Vance, an employee of WASD since 1991, was a Supervisor 2 in charge of the mailroom at WASD. Vance was responsible for monitoring and replenishing the WASD mail meter accounts with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). WASD collectively mails to its customers approximately 10,000 bills per day. OIG investigators discovered that Vance diverted twenty (20) WASD checks in the amount of \$50,000 each, which were fraudulently deposited into a USPS account in the name of Modular Innovations, Inc., a company owned by Vance's co-defendant, Frank Tucker (Tucker) who assisted with laundering the stolen proceeds.

Vance and Tucker both pled guilty. Currently, Vance is serving a ten-year prison sentence. Tucker's sentencing is set for next month. In addition to prison terms, Vance and Tucker were sentenced to pay restitution to the County. Monies have been recovered from the phony bank accounts and forfeited to the County, and cars purchased with the stolen proceeds had also been forfeited back to the County. Additional amounts were paid back to the County by Tucker as conditioned in his plea agreement. The balance of the restitution—over \$600,000—has been recovered by WASD through a claim filed with its insurance carrier based upon the guilty plea agreements. The OIG is pleased to report that the County has now been made whole. We remain committed to rooting out thieves that steal County funds and ensuring that the County fully recovers the stolen monies.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Ms. Susanne M. Torriente, Chief Assistant County Manager
Mr. John Renfrow, Director, Water & Sewer Department
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Clerk of the Board (copy filed)