



Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
A State of Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accredited Agency
19 West Flagler Street ♦ Suite 220 ♦ Miami, Florida 33130
Phone: (305) 375-1946 ♦ Fax: (305) 579-2656
Visit our website at: www.miamidadeig.org

To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman
Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Patra Liu, Interim Inspector General

Date: May 22, 2013

Subject: County Grant Recipient Sentenced to 85 Days in Jail for Stealing Grant Funds; IG10-19

Charles Leon Cutler (Cutler), who was found guilty and convicted of two felony counts of Grand Theft for stealing public grant funds last March, was sentenced today. Cutler was sentenced to 85 days in jail, followed by four years of probation with the special conditions of paying restitution and costs of investigation to Miami-Dade County.

This case involved public funds granted to the Veteran's Employment Transition Services, Inc. (VETS). Cutler was VETS' former chief executive officer. VETS received funding from both Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami. A joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General and the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office revealed that Cutler diverted City grant funds for his own personal use and then used County funds to repay those misappropriated funds. Specifically, VETS was awarded a grant to benefit military veterans and the unemployed by the County's Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED), now known as the Public Housing and Community Development agency (PHCD). VETS was also awarded a grant by the City of Miami Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to establish a Hospitality Institute to train low-income Overtown residents to work in the hotel industry. The CRA grant was restructured requiring the return of unused funds. Instead, Cutler wrote over \$6,000 in checks to himself, and to family and friends, from the CRA funds. When CRA officials discovered the theft, Cutler falsely certified employee salaries and diverted the County OCED grant funds to repay the CRA.

Cutler is still awaiting trial for allegedly stealing another \$13,000 in Miami-Dade County grant money intended to fund a 2008 veteran's summit.

cc: Hon. Thomas Regaldo, Mayor, City of Miami
Hon. Chairwoman, Michelle Spence-Jones
And Board Members, Miami Community Redevelopment Agency
Clarence E. Woods, III, Executive Director, Southeast Overtown/Park West CRA
Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Gregg Fortner, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development
Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director, Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit and Management Services Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade County