




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
The Honorable Jean Monestime, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: May 6, 2016

Subject: Former Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Code Enforcement Officer Sentenced for Unlawful Compensation; Ref. IG13-36

Jeffrey Lowman, a former Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Code Enforcement Officer, entered a plea last week and was sentenced to one year of community control (house arrest) followed by two years of reporting probation for the felony crime of Unlawful Compensation.

Lowman was arrested and charged with multiple felony counts for defrauding the taxpayers of Miami-Dade County of fire code violation penalty fees owed to the County, while enriching himself through his private business. The investigation, conducted in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Police Department's Public Corruption Unit, began in August of 2013 and uncovered that Lowman submitted fraudulent affidavits causing penalty fees owed to the County to be waived. The Finance Department's Credit and Collections Division also contacted the OIG when it observed suspicious activity regarding the paperwork being submitted in support of the fee waivers. Lowman's actions in his official duties as a Code Enforcement Officer were undertaken as he was profiting through his private fire consulting business—his private clients were the same property owners that had been assessed the penalties.

As part of his sentence, Lowman will pay the County \$14,000 in restitution and will forfeit his pension. Costs of investigation to the OIG were also ordered.

The OIG appreciates the cooperation of Miami-Dade County's Finance and Fire Rescue Departments and the cooperation of the Police Department during the course of this investigation.

cc: Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Edward Marquez, Deputy Mayor/Finance Director
Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor
Juan Perez, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department
David Downey, Fire Chief, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor