



Memorandum

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To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
The Honorable Chairperson Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: July 14, 2008

Re: Abuse of Disabled Parking at MIA Results in Another Arrest - IG07-62

This May, an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), into workers at Miami International Airport (MIA) abusing a County ordinance that provides free parking in public parking facilities to the disabled, resulted in the arrest of a TSA employee. The continuing investigation has resulted in the arrest of another TSA employee, Anthony Lee Lindsey, Jr. (Lindsey), who was arrested over the weekend and charged by the State Attorney's Office with one count each of Cheating, Grand Theft Third Degree, and Making False Statements to Obtain a Disabled Parking Permit.

Earlier this year, the OIG issued a report, which indicated that a large number of the disabled parking spaces reserved for the traveling public were frequently occupied by MIA employees who appeared to able-bodied. The investigation began at the request of Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) officials suspicious of MIA employees occupying public disabled parking spaces. The OIG investigation uncovered that in addition to inconveniencing disabled patrons of MIA, the employees were cheating the County of parking fees. In accordance with Section 30-442 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, fees at public parking facilities are waived upon presentation of a disabled parking permit.

This second arrest is similar to the first in that the employee fraudulently obtained a disabled parking permit and used it to obtain waivers of the parking fees at MIA parking garages near the terminals. The waivers resulted in a total of \$886 in fees not paid to the County. The OIG's investigation is continuing.

Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Ms. Ysela Llorca, Assistant County Manager
Mr. Denis Morales, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Mr. Jose Abreu, P.E., Director, Aviation Department
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Clerk of the Board (copy filed)



OIG Probe of Disabled Parking Abuses at Miami International Airport Yields Another Arrest of TSA Employee

Anthony Lee Lindsey, Jr. (Lindsey), 23, an employee of the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) stationed to work at Miami International Airport (MIA), was arrested on Friday July 11, 2008, at Miami International Airport, during his work shift. TSA provided assistance in securing the arrest. This is the second arrest as a result of the continuing probe by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the State Attorney's Office into the abusive practice of airport workers using disabled parking permits to obtain free parking near the terminals at MIA. Lindsey was charged with one (1) count of Grand Theft 3rd degree, one (1) count of Making False or Misleading Statement for issuance of a State Disabled Parking Permit and (1) one count of Cheating. According to an arrest warrant signed by a state Circuit Court Judge, Lindsey fraudulently obtained a disabled persons parking permit from the State of Florida and cheated Miami-Dade County out of \$886 in parking fees by presenting the permit to cashiers at the MIA parking garages over a four-month period of time.

Miami-Dade County, through Section 30-442 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, provides free parking in public parking facilities to individuals who are disabled and display a disabled parking permit. The OIG investigation began at the request of Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) officials who expressed concern that employees working at the airport were occupying disabled parking spaces in the public parking garages. An OIG report that chronicled excessive abuses of the disabled parking program by many airport employees was issued on April 9, 2008. Through the OIG investigation, it has been determined that Lindsey presented a disabled parking permit to cashiers upon leaving the MIA parking facility to have his parking fees waived. According to the arrest warrant, Lindsey was issued a permanent disabled parking permit and later issued a replacement permit, due to an inability to walk as certified by Dr. Q. Collins. However, Dr. Quenten A. Collins, of Homosassa Springs, Florida, submitted a sworn affidavit to investigators stating that he did not sign the applications nor is Lindsey his patient.

Inspector General Christopher Mazzella indicated that it is disturbing to see employees of government agencies cheating the County, but it is truly reprehensible to do so while taking advantage of services reserved for the disabled. Mazzella said the investigation into disabled parking abuses at MIA is on-going.

Copies of the arrest affidavit are available at the Office of the Inspector General, 19 West Flagler Street, Suite 220, Miami, Florida, telephone number (305) 375-1946, or at the State Attorney's Office, c/o Ed Griffith, 1350 N.W. 12 Avenue, Miami, Florida, telephone number (305) 547-0535.