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**Office of the Inspector General  
Miami-Dade County**

# Memorandum

To: The Hon. Mayor Alex Penelas, Miami-Dade County  
The Hon. Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chair  
And Members of the Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella,  
Inspector General

Date: June 18, 2004

Re: Istvan "Steven" Fazekas – Former Engineer for the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Dept.

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Attached for your information is a Federal Grand Jury Indictment of Fazekas, which emanated from an Office of the Inspector General investigation. By way of background, Fazekas was arrested and charged in February 2003, on 38 counts including bribery, money laundering and organized scheme to defraud. The investigation into Fazekas revealed that while he was the County official responsible for reviewing and approving fire sprinkler plans for building structures, he secretly owned and operated two companies that drafted fire sprinkler plans from 1998 through 2002. He then reviewed his own company's plans. Fazekas' companies received approximately one million dollars from other fire sprinkler companies for drafting plans that were ultimately submitted for his approval. Fazekas also accepted approximately \$45,000.00 in bribes from other fire sprinkler companies.

In April of 2003, OIG Special Agents obtained a second warrant for Fazekas' arrest after determining that Fazekas had solicited three of his employees and a client to falsely testify on his behalf. Fazekas fled from court during a hearing on his original charges, upon learning of the pending arrest warrant on the second solicitation to commit perjury case.

The OIG's pursuit of Fazekas and investigation into his whereabouts culminated in his extradition from Hungary where he fled. U.S. Marshals escorted him back to this country and he is currently incarcerated in Dade County Jail. The Federal Indictment of Fazekas is the result of a cooperative effort between the IRS and the OIG.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager  
Mr. Anthony Bared, Fire Chief, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department  
Mr. Robert Ginsburg, County Attorney  
Ms. Susanne M. Torriente, Assistant County Manager  
Mr. Charlie Danger, Director, Miami-Dade Building Department  
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services

Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)