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Office of the Inspector General
Miami-Dade County

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

The Honorable Chairperson Joe Martinez
Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella,
Inspector General

Date: December 13, 2005

Re: Additional Criminal Charges Filed in Airport Fuel Farm Investigation

As a result of the OIG's and State Attorneys Office ongoing investigation of the Aviation Department's Fuel Farm Facility, three more individuals and another corporation have been criminally charged. Thus far, 18 individuals and five corporations have been charged criminally. Substantial restitution is also in progress.

On 12/12/05, Cliff Berry Jr., President of Cliff Berry, Inc., Jeff Smith, a Director and Principal of Berry, Inc., and Brian Schneir, a former maintenance supervisor for Aircraft Services International Group (ASIG), were each charged with Racketeering, Conspiracy, Organized Fraud, and Grand Theft. Cliff Berry, Inc., located in Miami, Florida, was also charged and a racketeering lien placed on its business facility. Cliff Berry, Inc., was contracted by ASIG, the company that managed the fuel facility, to remove petroleum contaminated water from the fuel facility.

In essence, according to the charging documents, the defendants concocted a scheme to illegally remove jet fuel from the facility. The thefts occurred from 1999 to the early part of 2003 and are estimated well in excess of \$100,000. The defendants subsequently sold the stolen fuel to Costa Oil, Inc. in Medley, FL.

The investigation is continuing and more arrests are forthcoming.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Mr. Jose Abreu, Director, Miami-Dade Aviation Department
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit and Management Services

Clerk's Office (copy filed)