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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: July 23rd, 2003

Re: Arrest of Yvonne Green, Former President of OTAC

For your information, I am attaching a news release issued today by my office concerning the arrest of the captioned individual. As you may know, Green served as the President of OTAC from March 2000 to June 2002. It is alleged that she stole over \$21,000 in County funds during her tenure as President. As a result, she has been charged with multiple counts of fraud and grand theft. The OIG's investigation into this matter is continuing.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Mr. Tony Crapp, Assistant County Manager
Mr. Rene Rodriguez, Director Miami-Dade Housing Agency

Clerk of the Board (copy filed)

News Release

Former President of OTAC Arrested for Fraud

The former president of the Overall Tenant Advisory Council (OTAC) was arrested today as the result of an investigation conducted by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and charged with multiple counts of fraud and grand theft. This official, Yvonne Green, age 55, a Miami-Dade County resident, served as OTAC's president from March 2000 to April 2002. It is alleged that during her tenure as President, Green stole over \$21,000 from OTAC. OTAC is a non-profit organization that advocates the needs of 40,000 Miami-Dade County public housing residents on a local, state, and national level. It also provides support to 42 other county organizations that impact public housing residents. OTAC is federally and locally financed

According to an affidavit filed by an OIG Special Agent, Green used a sophisticated scheme to defraud OTAC and the County. The affidavit alleges that in November 2001, at the request of Green, OTAC received a \$30,000 grant from the County to fund a security guard program through the D.A. Dorsey Educational Center, located at 7100 N.W. 17th Avenue, Miami, Florida. Expenses for this program were to be paid by the County on a reimbursement basis.

A joint investigation by the OIG and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office revealed that Green submitted a series of invoices and supporting documentation to the County requesting reimbursement for Dorsey training expenses and OTAC salaries for the security program. According to the affidavit, the investigation actually determined that Green submitted a total of \$26,247 in fraudulent invoices. The affidavit further alleges that reimbursement payments made by the County based upon the fraudulent invoices were deposited by Green into an OTAC bank account from which she made forty-three unauthorized ATM cash withdrawals totaling \$21,339.00 between March 2002 and June 2002. None of the cash withdrawals were used for official OTAC business.

Inspector General Christopher Mazzella stressed the importance of vigorously prosecuting officials who steal public funds, especially when those funds are earmarked to help the most needy in our community. To this end, Mr. Mazzella expressed his appreciation to OTAC officials for bringing this matter to his office's attention. Mr. Mazzella indicated that this investigation is continuing.

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

Media Opportunity – Mr. Mazzella will be available for a media opportunity today between 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the OIG office.