



Memorandum

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

From: Christopher Mazzella
Inspector General

Date: September 12, 2007

Re: OIG investigation results in sentence for a County lobbyist.

Allen Hardemon (Hardemon), a registered lobbyist with Miami-Dade County, pled guilty and was sentenced on August 31, 2007. An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) resulted in Hardemon being charged by the State Attorney's Office for theft.

Hardemon was charged in a scheme where he falsely represented to various acquaintances that he was authorized on behalf of the County to award certain contracts. Hardemon fraudulently represented that by purchasing contracts from him, the individuals would be entitled to participate in the County's truck-hauling pool and be guaranteed participation in a huge County program to haul sludge dredged from County canals. Many people gave Hardemon money and signed what turned out to be phony contracts. Hardemon was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to seven months in jail with credit for time served and four years of probation. Additionally, Hardemon was ordered to pay \$24,000 in restitution.

The OIG is grateful to the County's Department of Environmental Resource Management (DERM) and Department of Procurement Management who provided invaluable assistance to the OIG during the course of the investigation. The OIG remains committed to targeting fraudulent activities that adversely impact the public's confidence in County programs.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Ms. Susanne M. Torriente, Chief Assistant County Manager
Mr. Henry Sori, Executive Assistant to the County Manager
Ms. Miriam Singer, Director, Department of Procurement Management
Mr. Carlos Espinosa, P.E., Director, Department of Environmental Resource Management
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor

Clerk of the Board (copy filed)