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

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
The Honorable Chairperson Joe Martinez
And Members, Board of County Commissioners

From:  Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: March 1, 2006

Re: Former Official of AFSCME Labor Union Local 121 Guilty of Grand Theft

For your information, today Alexander Pupo, the former Recording Secretary for American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, (AFSCME) Labor Union, Local 121, which mainly represents Water and Sewer Department employees, pled no contest to one count of Grand Theft and the court entered a finding of guilt. As you may recall, he and the principal officers of Local 121 were arrested in April 2005 as a result of an investigation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General. They were charged with serious felonies relating to stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars in union money. In exchange for his plea, Pupo was placed on three years probation and agreed to cooperate and testify against the remaining defendants in the case (Rafael Mendez, former President and James Gonzalez, former Secretary-Treasurer). He also agreed to pay the OIG's investigative costs and to pay restitution to the union in the amount of \$20,000. The plea agreement also stipulates that Pupo is barred from any future employment with the county and/or any other government entity, that he is debarred from seeking any County contracts or business for the period of his probation, and that he must perform 200 hours of community service.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Mr. John Renfrow, Director, WASD
Mr. Jay Staley, President, AFSCME Local 121
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Clerk of the Board