



Memorandum

19 West Flagler Street ♦ Suite 220 ♦ Miami, Florida 33130
Phone: (305) 375-1946 ♦ Fax: (305) 579-2656
visit our website at www.miamidadeig.org

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

From: Christopher Mazzella
Inspector General

Date: January 19, 2007

Re: OIG Investigation Results in Sentence for Charged Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Lieutenant

An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which resulted in two Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Lieutenants being charged with stealing over \$14,000 in overtime pay, has concluded with the plea of one of the Lieutenants. Lt. Robert Cleary (Cleary) and Lt. Norman Hepburn (Hepburn) were responsible for inspections of all life safety systems at Miami International Airport (MIA), including the inspection and plans review of new construction projects which comprise MIA's Capital Improvement Program. Cleary and Hepburn were arrested in June of 2004 and charged with the theft of overtime while conducting inspections at MIA.

On January 18, 2007, Cleary entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to five (5) years probation. As a special condition of his probation Cleary will be paying the County \$14,303 in restitution, an additional \$56,633.89 from his pension funds and will have his pension reduced by approximately \$19,000 annually. Additionally, Cleary is forfeiting \$37,662.56 in accrued leave with the County and will pay the OIG for the costs of the investigation. Cleary's plea prohibits him from County employment during the course of his probation and debars him from contracting with the County for a period of five years. The case against Hepburn was closed upon his death in early 2006. As a result of the OIG's investigation the Fire Rescue Dept. has taken remedial steps to help prevent this type of abuse in the future.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Ms. Susanne Torriente, Chief of Staff, Assistant County Manager
Mr. Herminio Lorenzo, Chief, Fire Rescue Dept.
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor

Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)