



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

News Release
Inspector General Releases Annual Report
Millions in Savings and Numerous Arrests Highlighted

The Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released its 2005 Annual Report highlighting its significant accomplishments of the year. Investigations, audits, inspections and contract reviews have resulted in identifying over \$26 million in questionable costs, lost revenues, and identified losses and damages. Overall, as a result of OIG's activities, more than \$16 million dollars in restitution and savings has been achieved for the County.

The report focuses on many of the year's investigations, audits and contract reviews, including those that oversee the Public Health Trust/Jackson Memorial Hospital and the Aviation Department, with particular attention focused on the Miami International Airport North Terminal Development Project. According to its Annual Report, increased program integrity will continue to be a top priority for the OIG in 2006 with stepped up oversight activities at the County's Seaport Department and Transit Department.

In addition to summarizing its most significant investigations and audits, the Annual Report also underlines many other activities engaged in during the year, including the OIG's hosting of the National Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Conference in May 2005 and Miami-Dade OIG staff participation in lecturing at AIG certification institutes. Other activities positively impacting the Office, as reported in the Annual Report, was the passage of Miami-Dade County Ordinance 05-51, which crystallizes the selection process for appointing the Inspector General and solidifies the independence of the IG. The impact of these legislative amendments became a focal point in a Fall 2005 issue of *Governing Magazine*, which examined various reporting structures of inspectors general offices nationwide.

The OIG continues detecting and preventing misconduct and abuse and seeking appropriate remedies to recover public monies. Inspector General Christopher Mazzella emphasized that the OIG's achievements are possible only because of the support of elected officials, County staff, the law enforcement community and, most importantly, the public. In fact, the community reported over 485 fraud complaints, a 15% increase over last year, through letters, faxes, via the OIG website and through its Fraud Hotline. As reported in the Annual Report, nineteen arrests were made and two companies were indicted in the past year. Since the inception of the OIG, a total of 156 arrests have resulted from its investigations.

You can view the Annual Report on the OIG website, www.miamidadeig.org. To report abuse, fraud, misconduct or corruption, call the Fraud Hotline at (305) 579-2593.