



Memorandum

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

To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Chairperson Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: June 10, 2009

Re: Inspector General's Investigation of Million-Dollar Theft and Money Laundering
by WASD Supervisor Concludes with Sentencing of Co-Defendant

An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which uncovered that former Miami-Dade County (County) employee Charles Anthony Vance (Vance) embezzled one million dollars from the County's Water & Sewer Department (WASD), has concluded with the sentencing of Vance's accomplice, Frank Tucker (Tucker).

Vance, who was a Supervisor 2 in charge of the mailroom at WASD, was responsible for monitoring and replenishing the WASD mail meter accounts with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). WASD collectively mails to its customers approximately 10,000 bills per day. OIG investigators discovered that Vance diverted twenty (20) WASD checks in the amount of \$50,000 each, which were fraudulently deposited into a USPS account in the name of Tucker's company, Modular Innovations, Inc. Tucker assisted Vance in embezzling and laundering the money. Modular Innovations is not and has never been a County vendor.

Tucker agreed to cooperate in the case against Vance. As part of his plea, Tucker turned over three (3) bank accounts totaling nearly \$300,000 as restitution to the County. Today, Tucker was sentenced to three (3) years state prison followed by ten (10) years probation. In addition to the money in the bank accounts, Tucker will have to pay over \$40,000 to the County and over \$600,000 to the insurance company that paid out the loss to the County. Vance was sentenced last year to ten (10) years in prison and is jointly responsible for payment of the restitution.

The OIG remains committed to rooting out those that steal County funds and ensuring that the County fully recovers any such funds.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Mr. Denis Morales, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Ms. Susanne M. Torriente, Chief Assistant County Manager
Mr. John Renfrow, Director, Water & Sewer Department
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Clerk of the Board (copy filed)