



Memorandum

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

From: Christopher Mazzella
Inspector General

Date: September 14, 2006

Re: Arrest of County Employee

Attached is a news release relating to the arrest of County employee Robert Garcia (Garcia) on fraud related charges concerning false statements and misrepresentations on a loan application.

Garcia, an employee of the Property Appraiser's Office since April 2001, is currently a Personal Property Evaluator earning over \$45,000 annually. Garcia, along with Ramier Rodriguez, 36, also arrested, submitted false information to L. P. Evans Motors, Inc, in order to obtain financing on a \$54,964.84 loan for a 2006 Mercedes-Benz ML 500. Among the many false statements provided by Garcia was that he previously held a supervisory position within the Property Appraiser's Office.

Garcia's fraud came to the attention of OIG investigators during the OIG investigation into a mortgage fraud scheme and theft of court systems funds. That case resulted in the arrests of five individuals, including a Miami attorney, and prosecution by the Office of Statewide Prosecution.

cc: Mr. Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts
Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Ms. Cynthia Curry, Senior Advisor to the County Manager
Mr. Frank Jacobs, Director, Property Appraiser's Office
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor

Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

County Employee Arrested for Fraudulent Scheme to Obtain Luxury Car

A joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office resulted in the arrest of a Miami-Dade County employee, Robert Garcia (Garcia), 35, and Ramier Rodriguez (Rodriguez), 36, both of Miami, Florida. Garcia and Rodriguez were charged with one count each of the following: Grand Theft in the Second Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Grand Theft in the Second Degree, Communications Fraud, and Obtaining Property or Credit through False Statements. Garcia was also charged with one count of Registration of a Vehicle by False Representations, and Fictitious Driver's License.

Garcia and Rodriguez's fraud was discovered during an OIG investigation into another matter. Investigators found that Garcia, who owned a condominium in the Kendall area, had three vehicles, including a 2006 Mercedes-Benz ML 500, registered in his name but to a different address. OIG investigators followed a trail of paper and interviewed several witnesses to uncover a scheme by Garcia and Rodriguez to fraudulently purchase the Mercedes-Benz from L.P. Evans Motors. Garcia, a five-year Miami-Dade County employee of the Property Appraiser's Office, earns \$45,535.36 annually as a Personal Property Evaluator. Garcia and Rodriguez submitted false and fraudulent information to L.P. Evans Motors to obtain a \$54,964.84 loan to finance the 2006 Mercedes-Benz ML 500. The fraudulent information included phony employment information, a false address, and fraudulent salary information.

Mr. Mazzella confirmed that the OIG remains fully committed to exposing and correcting employee improprieties, such as those exhibited by Garcia.

Copies of the arrest affidavit are available at the Office of the Inspector General, 19 West Flagler Street, Suite 220, Miami, Florida, telephone number (305) 375-1946, or at the State Attorney's Office, c/o Ed Griffith, 1350 N.W. 12 Avenue, Miami, Florida, telephone number (305) 547-0535.