



Memorandum

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

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: February 20, 2008

Re: Former County Solid Waste Management Employees Charged in a Scheme to Alter Time Clocks are Sentenced for Overtime Fraud

An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) into the falsification of overtime work hours by Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) Maintenance Shop employees has closed with the successful prosecution of two individuals involved in a scheme to cheat their employer—Miami-Dade County. Emilio Orbis (Orbis), a County employee for over twenty-six years, and Carlos Manuel Fernandez (Fernandez), a thirteen-year employee, were sentenced to five (5) years probation on charges of Official Misconduct and Organized Scheme to Defraud.

The scheme, as uncovered by the OIG investigation, involved tampering with the time-clock and altering time cards at DSWM's North Dade Landfill Maintenance Shop. Orbis and Fernandez caused false overtime hours to be recorded on their official payroll attendance records and received pay for work they did not perform. For a six-month period in 2007, the pair each received over \$2,000 in pay by falsifying records of the weekend overtime they worked. Orbis and Fernandez had been terminated by DSWM in July 2007. The pair was formally charged with the criminal offenses in September 2007.

As part of the plea entered by Orbis, he will pay the County \$2,154 in restitution. Fernandez will pay the County \$2,006 in restitution. Both will have to perform 100 community service hours, will be debarred from contracting with Miami-Dade County for five years, and will pay the OIG for costs associated with the investigation.

The Department of Solid Waste Management should be commended for its cooperation during the course of the investigation.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Ms. Susanne M. Torriente, Chief Assistant County Manager
Mr. Denis Morales, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Ms. Kathleen Woods-Richardson, Director, Department of Solid Waste Management
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor
Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)