



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 Joe Martinez
Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: November 30, 2006

Re: Another Arrest in the Million Dollar Theft and Money Laundering Investigation
of the WASD Mailroom Supervisor

In October an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General resulted in the arrest of Miami-Dade County (County) employee Charles Anthony Vance (Vance). Today Frank Tucker (Tucker) who assisted Vance in the theft of one million dollars of County funds surrendered in Circuit Court and entered into a plea agreement with prosecutors. Tucker agreed to cooperate in the case against Vance and in the investigation into the misappropriation of funds from the County's Water & Sewer Department (WASD). Vance, a fifteen (15) year employee of the WASD was the supervisor in charge of WASD's mailroom.

Tucker, through his company Modular Innovations, LLC, assisted Vance in embezzling a total of one million dollars of WASD funds, from September 2003 to August 2006, and then laundering the money. Modular Innovations, represented itself as a Miami-Dade County vendor; however, Tucker had never registered as a vendor and in fact was not authorized to do any business for or on behalf of the County.

In addition to cooperating in the case against Vance, Tucker will serve a prison sentence, a lengthy probation term and be liable for the full one million dollars to be returned to the County. His plea agreement requires that he sell or dispose of various assets in order to pay the restitution owed to the County.

The OIG investigation into Vance's fraudulent use of WASD funds continues and additional arrests are expected. The OIG is committed to rooting out those that steal County funds and ensuring that the County fully recovers any such funds. The case is being prosecuted by the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Mr. Roger Carlton, 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)



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Co-Defendant Surrenders and Pleas Guilty the in Million Dollar Theft and Money Laundering Investigation of the WASD Mailroom Supervisor

An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that began this September has resulted in the surrender and plea of Frank Tucker (Tucker), age 44, an unregistered vendor of Miami-Dade County (County), on charges of Organized Fraud and Money Laundering. In October, County employee Charles Anthony Vance (Vance) was arrested and charged in connection with the theft of a million dollars from the County's Water & Sewer Department (WASD). At the time, Vance had been a County employee of fifteen (15) years, and was in charge of the mailroom at WASD.

The OIG investigation revealed that Vance embezzled a total of one million dollars of WASD funds, from September 2003 to August 2006. OIG investigators discovered that Vance diverted twenty (20) WASD checks in the amount of \$50,000 each which were fraudulently deposited into a U.S. Postal Service account in the name of Modular Innovations, LLC. Modular Innovations is not and has never been a vendor for the County. Tucker is the Registered Agent and President of Modular Innovations, LLC.

Tucker and Vance's scheme consisted of depositing the misappropriated WASD funds into the Modular Innovations account and then withdrawing and depositing the funds into a series of bank accounts. The transactions concealed Vance's involvement and his ultimate personal use of WASD funds.

Tucker surrendered in court today before the Honorable Judge Pereyra-Shuminer, also entered into a plea agreement with the State Attorney's Office. Tucker has agreed to cooperate in the prosecution of Vance. In exchange, he will receive a sentence of three years in the state prison followed by ten years probation and will be jointly responsible for paying the \$1,000,000 in restitution to the County. Tucker's plea contemplates relinquishing several bank accounts and selling property in order to pay the County's restitution, as well as dissolving Modular Innovations, LLC and being debarred from legitimate contracts with the County. Tucker's sentencing has been deferred at this time.

State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle stated that Tucker's plea is "an important first step to bring completion and justice to this most serious matter of theft of County funds." Inspector General Christopher Mazzella emphasized that his office will continue to investigate individual wrongdoers as well as actively seek the prosecution of business enterprises that defraud governmental institutions. The OIG investigation into Vance's fraudulent use of WASD funds continues; additional arrests are expected.