

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE
PALM BEACH COUNTY INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMITTEE
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

**THURSDAY
2:00 p.m.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

Peter L. Cruise
Michael S. Kridel
Kristin Vara-Garcia, Vice Chair
Carey Haughwout, Public Defender
David Aronberg, State Attorney
Michael H. Kugler, Chair
Rodney G. Romano

INSPECTOR GENERAL STAFF PRESENT:

John A. Carey, County Inspector General (IG)

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk
Jillian Zalewska, Deputy Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Jennifer Loyless attended in place of Public Defender Carey Haughwout.)

II. ROLL CALL

Present: State Attorney David Aronberg, Commissioner Peter L. Cruise, Chair
Michael H. Kugler, Jennifer Loyless, and Vice Chair Kristin Vara-Garcia

Absent: Commissioner Michael S. Kridel, Public Defender Carey Haughwout,
and Commissioner Rodney G. Romano

III. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

No comments were made.

IV. APPROVAL OF IG COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the June 8, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion by Vice Chair Varagarcia, seconded by Chair Kugler, and carried 5-0.

V. SIX-MONTH STATUS REPORT

a. Presentation by Inspector General Carey

Mr. Carey initiated the presentation by reviewing the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) mission, staff highlights and accomplishments, and an overview of recent intakes and investigations.

Mr. Carey discussed details of the COVID-19-related activities from March 12, 2020, to September 30, 2023, and he provided a summary of the types of complaints their office received.

Stuart Robinson, OIG Director of Investigations, continued the presentation and provided a summary of the cases that the OIG office worked on in the prior six months.

Mr. Robinson highlighted the following topics:

- false information on rental assistance applications;
- mismanagement of a municipality;
- tips and trends on the prevention of check washing; and
- recent arrests made as a result of the OIG CARES Act.

Mr. Aronberg inquired if one of the cases discussed had been referred to law enforcement, and Mr. Robinson stated that law enforcement and the State Attorney's office were always notified but not always referred.

Tony Montero, OIG Director of Contract Oversight and Evaluations, provided an overview of an OIG investigation into the procurement process for the Village of North Palm Beach, and he discussed the objective and the tracking data for the contract oversight and evaluation team.

Mr. Montero discussed additional contract oversight activities that were not reflected in the reports.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Jennifer Loyless left the meeting.)

Hilary Bojan, OIG Director of Audit, discussed the findings of an audit of the rental car lease and concession agreement with the Palm Beach County and Enterprise Leasing Company of Florida.

Chair Kugler asked if someone within the County had been monitoring compliance with the contract and, if so, had missed the instances of noncompliance outlined in the report. Ms. Bojan confirmed that the independent auditor conducting oversight had not identified the items.

Ms. Bojan also discussed the findings of an audit concerning the City of Belle Glade's expenditure of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding, as well as an audit of the Village of Tequesta's construction contract.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Dave Aronberg left the meeting.)

Mr. Carey stated that the office conducted a lot of investigative work, not all resulted in formal reports.

Mr. Carey provided an overview of education/awareness, announcements, and outreach and training activities.

Mr. Carey ended his presentation discussing budget and staffing, the strategic plan for the OIG office, and a summary of accomplishments for 2023. In addition, he stated the annual report from his office would be accessible in December 2023.

b. Discussion

No discussion took place.

UNSCHEDULED ITEM

Chair Vara-Gracia thanked Mr. Carey and the OIG staff for their efforts, and she recognized military veterans for their contributions. She also said that the OIG office should not be feared but rather viewed as a valuable resource.

Chair Kugler echoed the vice chair's sentiments and added remarks that highlighted the important work performed by the OIG.

c. Public Comment

Richard Radcliffe discussed his experience attending OIG meetings over the years.

VI. New Business

No new business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment

At 3:17 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


Chair/Vice Chair