

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

**THURSDAY
9:30 a.m.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Peter L. Cruise, Chair
Michael S. Kridel, Vice Chair
David Aronberg – Arrived Later
Carol E. A. DeGraffenreidt – Absent and Excused
Carey Haughwout – Arrived Later
Michael H. Kugler
Rodney G. Romano

STAFF:

John A. Carey, County Inspector General

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Marisa Valentin, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's Office

III. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS – None

IV. APPROVAL OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (IG) COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

IV.a. Meeting: May 21, 2020

MOTION to approve the May 21, 2020 minutes. Motion by Rodney Romano, seconded by Michael Kridel, and carried 4-0. David Aronberg, Carol DeGraffenreidt, and Carey Haughwout absent.

V. SIX-MONTH STATUS REPORT

V.a. Presentation by Inspector General Carey

(CLERK'S NOTE: Carey Haughwout joined the meeting.)

Inspector General John Carey gave a presentation highlighting the following updates:

- Shonnelle Brathwaite joined the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) staff as an auditor.
- Kalinthia Dillard, OIG General Counsel, was presented with the Athena Award by the Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce.
- 2020 marked the 10-year anniversary of the OIG's inception.
- The OIG staff made a smooth transition to working remotely.
- The OIG's office adjusted its focus on providing oversight of the \$261 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding received by the County.
- The independent oversight was requested by the County to ensure transparency and accountability.

(CLERK'S NOTE: David Aronberg joined the meeting.)

- The COVID-19 relief funding provided assistance to both businesses and citizens, in addition to general government expenditures.
- Projects underway in the Contracts and Oversight Division included reviews of:
 - the Restart Business Grant Program, which was administered by the County's Housing and Economic Sustainability Department;
 - the solicitation processes of two non-congregate COVID-19 quarantine facilities in Belle Glade and Pahokee; and
 - the County's homeless services program for providing funds to homeless persons living with mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

- Completed projects included:
 - The investigation of a complaint claiming distribution of funding with a bias toward the County food bank, which was found to be without merit.
 - A review of the County’s application process for the rental and utility assistance program, which determined that all policies and procedures were followed appropriately.
- 111 complaints, 26 which related to CARES ACT funds, had been received via various methods of correspondence from the beginning of the year to September 30, 2020.
- One of the services provided was referring complaints that were not within the purview of the OIG to the appropriate agencies.
- Reviews of the businesses that accepted CARES ACT grants were in progress for the purpose of ensuring that all funds were spent in accordance with the regulations.
- There were 12 open formal investigations underway, 3 of which were referred to law enforcement agency, county or state commissions on ethics.
- Three final reports, 12 recommendations, and various tips and trends were issued.

Mr. Carey concluded the presentation by providing details and final decisions of a few of the investigations that were completed.

Discussion ensued regarding continued training, oversight, peer reviews, and the limitations of the OIG.

V.b. Discussion – None

V.c. Public Comment

V.c.1.

DISCUSSED: Recognition

Richard Radcliffe, representative of the League of Cities, recognized both the Board of County Commissioners and the OIG for the improvements made to the County’s ethics system over the past 10 years.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:03 a.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Chair/Vice Chair