



# Palm Beach County Office of Inspector General

Sheryl G. Steckler  
Inspector General

February 9, 2011

## Criminal Charges Filed in First Case Referred by Palm Beach County Inspector General to the State Attorney's Office Results in a Felony Misconduct Conviction

Former Palm Beach County Code Enforcement Officer, Juan Valencia, pled Guilty to Official Misconduct, 383.022, Florida Statutes. Mr. Valencia was sentenced to 5 years probation, 100 hours Community Service, and was ordered to pay \$1,000 restitution plus court costs.

Juan Carlos Valencia was found to have solicited a \$1,000 bribe from a resident in April 2009. As a result of receiving the bribe, he subsequently falsified county records to conceal several code violations. Valencia was terminated by the county with a "no rehire" on August 27, 2010. Further corrective action regarding his county pension and retirement benefits is pending.

The Public Integrity Unit of the State Attorney's Office filed charges against Valencia, after a review by Inspector General Sheryl Steckler. The allegations were brought to Steckler's attention by county Planning, Zoning and Building Director Barbara Alterman, who oversees Code Enforcement.

"This is a great example where the county, the state attorney's office and our office worked together to ensure justice was served in regards to an employee who committed a crime against a citizen of our county," Steckler said.

Anyone wishing to file a complaint may do so by filing a complaint on-line at <http://pbcgov.com/OIG>; calling the hotline at 877-283-7068; or by e-mailing a complaint to the office at: [inspector@pbcgov.org](mailto:inspector@pbcgov.org).