

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL
JANUARY 8, 2026**

**THURSDAY
2:30 P.M.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

Michael S. Kridel, Chair
Peter L. Cruise, Vice Chair
Alexcia Cox, State Attorney
Daniel Eisinger, Public Defender
Michael H. Kugler
Rodney G. Romano
Kristin A. Vara-Garcia

INSPECTOR GENERAL STAFF PRESENT:

Barbara Bellafiore, Executive Assistant, Office of Inspector General (OIG)
John A. Carey, Inspector General, OIG

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:

David Behar, Assistant County Attorney III, County Attorney
Paul Matteodo, Recruitment & Selection Manager, Human Resources

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

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order

The vice chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: State Attorney Cox, Vice Chair Cruise, Public Defender Eisinger,
Commissioner Kugler, Commissioner Romano, and Commissioner
Vara-Garcia

Absent: Chair Kridel

III. Introductory Comments

No introductory comments were made.

IV. Approval of Inspector General (IG) Committee Meeting Minutes

a. Meeting: November 6, 2025

MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Vara-Garcia, and carried 6-0.

V. New Business-Hiring Process for next Inspector General

Vice Chair Cruise confirmed that all members had received the job description for the Inspector General position and requested a motion to approve it.

MOTON to approve the Inspector General job description. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Vara-Garcia, and carried 6-0.

Discussion ensued regarding establishing a time frame to run the proposed job posting advertisement for the position.

Mr. Matteodo suggested running the advertisement for two weeks, citing that the previous recruitment in 2014 lasted one month and yielded 69 applicants, many of whom lacked relevant experience. He emphasized the importance of considering a more focused approach using targeted sources, including the Association of Inspectors General, the County website, and the Indeed website.

Responding to an inquiry regarding sufficient time being allotted for qualified applicants to apply, Mr. Matteodo confirmed that the advertisement could be prepared immediately with the flexibility to extend the time if needed. He also proposed utilizing a dedicated email address that would simplify submissions.

Without objection, Commissioner Romano suggested running the advertisement for 15 business days for a broader outreach.

State Attorney Cox asked to be reminded of the timeline.

Mr. Matteodo confirmed that Mr. Carey would retire in June. He provided a breakdown of the multiple steps involved and emphasized that the process should begin promptly, as timelines tended to accelerate.

Public Defender Eisinger asked if the minimum qualifications had changed since the last time the job was posted.

Mr. Matteodo stated that they added a "preferred" section to the application.

Discussion ensued as to whether a "preferred" section should be added to the minimum qualifications section.

Mr. Behar highlighted ordinance compliance and recommended designating the “preferred” section as an additional benefit instead of a mandatory qualification.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Cruise inquired about the vetting process for applicants.

Mr. Matteodo suggested organizing applicants into two groups for submission to the committee: one consisting of candidates with relevant experience and qualifications, and another of those without.

Vice Chair Cruise asked if both groups had to be reviewed.

Mr. Behar stated that the resumes could be sorted accordingly and reviewed individually to determine if applicants were qualified, but all of them must be submitted to the commission.

Mr. Behar clarified that resumes may be reviewed independently, but any discussion must be done collectively with the commission and not individually with another member.

Discussion ensued.

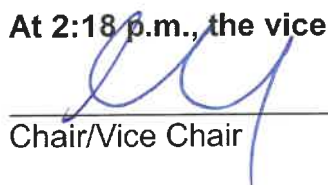
Mr. Matteodo confirmed that after the job posting closed, he would evaluate and sort the resumes before submitting them to the commission.

Discussion ensued regarding scheduling a special meeting to review the applications.

The committee agreed to post the job advertisement for 15 business days, from January 9 through January 30, and hold a special meeting on February 5 at 2:00 p.m. to review the applications of candidates who were selected for interviews.

VI. Adjournment

At 2:18 p.m., the vice chair declared the meeting adjourned.



Chair/Vice Chair