

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

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

**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)
Hillary M. Bojan, Director of Audit, OIG
John A. Carey, Inspector General, OIG
Kalinthia Dillard, General Counsel, OIG
Anthony Montero, Director of Contract Oversight, OIG
Stuart Robinson, Director of Investigations, OIG

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

Karla Perez, Board Meetings Specialist

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

II. Roll Call

All members were present.

III. Introductory Comments

Chair Kridel stated that the meeting was intended to review the presentations and updates provided by the OIG.

IV. See later in minutes.

V. Six Month Status Report

INSPECTOR GENERAL

a. Presentation by Inspector General Carey

Mr. Carey delivered a slideshow presentation discussing the OIG's mission. He welcomed Yahir Quintanar who was an intern from Florida Atlantic University and was recently hired at the OIG as a Junior Auditor. He also recognized the accomplishments of staff members.

Mr. Robinson provided a slide presentation and discussed the intake activities, investigative highlights, fraud and investigative reports involving a senior staff member from the City of Boynton Beach.

In addition, Mr. Robinson indicated that in certain situations, cases resulted in prosecution, specifically citing the case of Jamie Clark, a property manager, and Justin Laguerre who were arrested and currently awaiting trial for stealing tenants' identities and falsifying applications.

Mr. Carey recognized Mr. Montero and all the veterans for their service in the military in honor of Veterans Day next week.

Mr. Montero presented a six-month report on contract oversight and evaluations, highlighting monitored procurement activities, ongoing formal reviews and evaluations, issued reports, active investigative efforts, as well as emerging tips and trends.

Mr. Montero spoke about an investigation report regarding the Town of Jupiter and their Electrical Services Piggyback Contract. He discussed that after an investigation, the IG investigator issued recommendations for corrective action, and a subsequent follow-up confirmed that the Town had begun implementing the necessary procedures.

Discussion ensued regarding outreach and training assistance.

Commissioner Romano inquired about the potential effects that change orders have on request for proposals (RFPs) submitted by a county or a municipality.

In response, Mr. Montero responded that change orders consistently presented challenges and were considered a high source of fraud risk for auditors. He further stated that staff would be working to identify and implement solutions.

Ms. Bojan delivered a slide presentation highlighting the various audit findings over the past six months. She also discussed ongoing audits, recommendations that were made and accepted, and potential cost savings.

Commissioner Cruise asked about the level of oversight that the OIG has on law enforcement.

Ms. Bojan confirmed that oversight on law enforcement had been established and all audit cases involving any criminal activity would be referred to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

Commissioner Romano asked about the follow-up procedure for monitoring progress after an auditor's recommendation.

In response, Ms. Bojan confirmed that all audit cases were followed up to ensure implementation of corrective action, with ongoing monitoring for any noncompliance.

Discussion ensued regarding the sources of funding that municipalities received by the county or state.

Mr. Carey addressed the turnover issue in the City of Pahokee and recommended that the city hire an outside consultant to assist in policy development and organizational stabilization.

Chair Kridel inquired about the methods for improving culture in the organizations and Mr. Carey stated that the intended purpose for their recommendations was for guidance.

Ms. Dillard's slide presentation highlighted workforce training, outreach activities, financial and staffing strategies, IT tool exploration, and the objectives set for Fiscal Year 2026.

Mr. Carey announced his intent to retire in June of 2026.

Mr. Carey provided a slide presentation detailing an overview of the OIG's accomplishments since June of 2010.

b. Discussion

No discussion took place.

c. Public Comment

No comments were made.

VI. New Business

UNSCHEDULED ITEM

Chief Assistant County Attorney Michael Jones suggested holding a special meeting on January 2026 to establish a selection and hiring process for the Inspector General position.

Mr. Carey expressed his full support for Ms. Dillard, recommending her as the next Inspector General of Palm Beach County.

Commissioner Romano recommended utilizing a public and transparent hiring process to provide fairness to the public.

After a discussion, the Board proceeded to a vote.

MOTION to approve option one of the hiring and selection process for the Inspector General position and to return in two weeks on November 20th, 2025, as a Board to discuss and approve the advertisement description. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Vice chair Cruise, and carried 7-0.

Ms. Cox commended staff and Ms. Dillard for their outstanding performance in the Office of Inspector General.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Item IV.d was taken up at this time.)

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

d. Meeting: May 1, 2025

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Vara-Garcia, and carried 7-0.

VII. Adjournment

At 4:07 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair