

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL
FEBRUARY 5, 2026**

**THURSDAY
2:00 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)
Stuart Robinson, Director of Investigations, OIG

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:

David Behar, Assistant County Attorney III, County Attorney
Maria Figueroa, Division Director V, Human Resources (HR)
David Kahn, Director II, HR
Paul Matteodo, Recruitment & Selection Manager, HR

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

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Absent: None

III. Introductory Comments

No introductory comments were made.

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

a. Meeting: January 8, 2026

MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Vice Mayor Cruise, and carried 7-0.

V. New Business—Applications review for next Inspector General

Mr. Matteodo provided an overview of the application process and next steps via slideshow presentation. He noted that 13 applications had been submitted. All applicants were required to submit resumes and salary requirements. The applications were sorted and compiled based on the applicants' qualifications and certifications.

Discussion ensued regarding interview format options.

Mr. Matteodo presented two approaches:

- Sequential interviews, in which candidates were interviewed one at a time,

or

- “Round Robin” interviews, in which multiple candidates were interviewed together, with questions asked in rotation

He further explained that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) chose the “round robin” method when interviewing for the County Administrator and County Attorney positions, and they considered it successful because it prevented candidates from tailoring their responses.

Discussion ensued regarding the interview method options.

The committee chose to move forward with the “round robin” interview style.

Mr. Matteodo reviewed the list of candidates with the committee.

Candidate Howard Brown was removed from the list due to not meeting the minimum qualifications.

Vice Chair Cruise suggested narrowing list after citing that several applicants lacked the desired certifications.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kugler suggested removing all candidates who did not meet the qualifications or lacked relevant certifications.

MOTION to remove candidates Howard Brown, Christopher Kee, James McElligott, Scott Savedow, and Brian Tomney from the list. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Commissioner Romano, and carried 7-0.

The committee decided to prioritize candidates who possessed the Certified Inspector General (CIG) credentials. Three qualified candidates were identified.

Mr. Matteodo reviewed the next steps in the process, which included background checks; education and certification verification; and reference checks. He estimated that these could be completed within one week. He suggested that HR manage the deadlines for the candidates' submission of the items referenced, and the committee agreed.

Discussion continued.

The committee discussed moving forward with the candidates who had one or all the CIG certifications.

MOTION to move forward with candidates Kalinthia Dillard, Matthew Dove, and Anthony Zakel, all of whom held the CIG certification, and to direct HR to conduct due diligence, including background checks, education and certification verifications, and reference checks prior to the interviews. Motion by Vice Chair Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Kugler, and carried 7-0.

Commissioner Kridel suggested considering Jim Kirdar, who held one of the CIG certifications.

Vice Chair Cruise amended his motion to also include Jim Kirdar in the interview process.

AMENDED MOTION to include Jim Kirdar in the list of candidates who would be interviewed for the IG position. Motion by Vice Chair Cruise, seconded by State Attorney Cox, and carried 7-0.

The committee agreed to conduct the interviews in a "round robin" format, with two sessions scheduled back-to-back. Each candidate's response would be limited to three minutes.

Discussion ensued regarding selecting a date and time to conduct the interviews.

The interviews were scheduled for March 5th at 2:30 p.m.

It was determined that HR would handle the deadlines and time periods for the interview process.

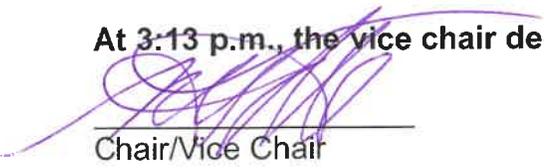
Mr. Matteodo would provide sample questions to the committee along with a list of prohibited questions to ensure compliance with Sunshine Law.

Mr. Behar stated that the IG's employment contract must be presented to the BCC and emphasized the importance of completing the selection process before June.

Mr. Robinson read a letter on behalf of IG John Carey expressing appreciation for Chair Kridel's dedicated years of service to the OIG committee.

VI. Adjournment

At 3:13 p.m., the vice chair declared the meeting adjourned.



Chair/Vice Chair