

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

**MARCH 5, 2026**

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

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**INSPECTOR GENERAL STAFF PRESENT:**

Barbara Bellafiore, Executive Assistant, Office of Inspector General (OIG)  
John Carey, Inspector General, OIG  
Kalinthia Dillard, General Counsel, OIG

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

**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 2:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

All members were present.

**UNSCHEDULED ITEM**

Vice Chair Cruise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Introductory Comments**

No comments were made.

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

a. Meeting: February 5, 2026

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

#### **V. New Business - Inspector General Interviews for selected candidates**

Mr. Matteodo provided an overview of the interview process. He also noted that one of the four candidates withdrew from consideration, and another would be unavailable until April due to medical issues.

Commissioner Cruise moved to proceed with the interview process with the finalists present.

**MOTION to proceed with the interview process. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by State Attorney Alexcia Cox, and carried 7-0.**

The commissioners asked the candidates questions as follows:

##### **Round 1**

Public Defender Daniel Eisinger: *Describe your experience as it relates to your current position. What about your experience do you believe would help you prepare to lead this office?*

The candidates responded in the following order:

Kalinthia Dillard and Jim Kirdar.

State Attorney Alexcia Cox: *In your opinion, what would be the top two or three challenges and opportunities of the Office of Inspector General in the upcoming years, and how would you address them?*

The candidates responded in the following order:

Jim Kirdar and Kalinthia Dillard.

Commissioner Cruise: *Detail your leadership philosophy, and how would you apply this to ensure the continued success of the OIG?*

The candidates responded in the following order:

Kalinthia Dillard and Jim Kirdar.

Commissioner Vara-Garcia: *Mr. Carey has worked hard at forming and maintaining trust and relationships between the OIG and the departments that fall under the jurisdiction, whether that is municipalities or the people. If you were selected for this position, how would you maintain those relationship while still making sure that your IG office and you maintain the level of professionalism and independence to run the office?*

The candidates responded in the following order:

Jim Kirdar and Kalinthia Dillard.

Vice Chair Blass: *Tell me about a case you have worked on in your career with a forensic accountant that you don't think you could have accomplished without the expertise of the forensic accountant. How was communication between you and the expert, and how did you discuss case decisions?*

The candidates responded in the following order:

Kalinthia Dillard and Jim Kirdar.

Commissioner Kugler: *How do you believe your connection or your new energy to the community is an asset to being the Inspector General for Palm beach County?*

The candidates responded in the following order:

Jim Kirdar and Kalinthia Dillard.

Chair Romano: *If you became appointed as the Inspector General, and I came to your office to look at your weekly schedule, how would I find you spending your time?*

The candidates responded in the following order:

Kalinthia Dillard and Jim Kirdar.

Vice Chair Blass asked a follow up question.

Vice Chair Blass: *How would you prioritize what type of cases to work on?*

The candidates responded in the following order:

Jim Kirdar and Kalinthia Dillard.

Commissioner Vara-Garcia moved to proceed with the voting.

**MOTION to proceed with completing the ballots. Motion by Commissioner Vara-Garica, seconded by Commissioner Cruise, and carried 7-0.**

The votes were filed with the clerk and reported as follows:

Vice Chair Blass	Kalinthia Dillard
State Attorney Alexcia Cox	Kalinthia Dillard
Commissioner Cruise	Kalinthia Dillard
Public Defender Daniel Eisinger	Kalinthia Dillard
Commissioner Kugler	Kalinthia Dillard
Chair Romano	Kalinthia Dillard
Commissioner Vara-Garcia	Kalinthia Dillard

The committee approved the appointment of Kalinthia Dillard to the Inspector General position via a unanimous vote.

**MOTION to receive and file the ballots. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Kugler, and carried 7-0.**

Mr. Matteodo stated that the ordinance required the appointment of a committee member to collaborate with Human Resources in the contract negotiation process.

Commissioner Cruise nominated himself.

**MOTION to appoint Commissioner Cruise to participate in the contract negotiation process with Human Resources. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Commissioner Kugler, and carried 7-0.**

**VI. Adjournment**

At 3:21 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

**MOTION to adjourn. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by State Attorney Alexcia Cox, and carried 7-0.**



Chair/Vice Chair