

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

MAY 2, 2024

**THURSDAY
2:00 p.m.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

MEMBERS:

David Aronberg, State Attorney
Peter L. Cruise
Carey Haughwout, Public Defender
Michael H. Kugler
Michael S. Kridel, Vice Chair
Rodney G. Romano
Kristin A. Vara-Garcia, Chair

INSPECTOR GENERAL STAFF PRESENT:

John A. Carey, County Inspector General (IG)

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

Danielle Freeman, Deputy Clerk
Chayanne Munet, Deputy Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Chief Assistant State Attorney Alan Johnson attended in place of State Attorney David Aronberg.)

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Kristin Vara-Garcia, Vice Chair Michael S. Kridel, Chief Assistant State Attorney Alan Johnson, and Commissioner Michael H. Kugler

Absent: State Attorney David Aronberg, Commissioner Peter L. Cruise, Public Defender Carey Haughwout, and Commissioner Rodney G. Romano

III. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

No comments were made.

IV. APPROVAL OF IG COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION to approve the November 2, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion by Commissioner Kugler, seconded by Alan Johnson, and carried 4-0.

V. SIX-MONTH STATUS REPORT

a. Presentation by Inspector General Carey

Mr. Carey delivered a slideshow presentation. He discussed the OIG's mission, acknowledged new hires recognized the contributions and accomplishments of staff members, and provided an overview of recent intakes and investigations.

Mr. Carey discussed details of Covid-19-related activities from March 1, 2020, to March 31, 2024. He also provided a summary of the intake activities and the types of complaints the office had received.

Mr. Carey continued the presentation and provided a summary of the reports that had been produced in the prior six months.

Mr. Carey highlighted the following topics:

- fraud related to rental-assistance programs;
- misappropriation of assistance funds allocated during the Covid pandemic; and
- financial compensation received by the County.

Mr. Carey discussed several cases that had been resolved after referral to law enforcement.

Vice Chair Kridel inquired about the numbers reflected in the six-month summary report, and Mr. Carey confirmed they were continuous from the previous six-month report.

Tony Montero, OIG Director of Contract Oversight and Evaluations, provided an overview of the OIG Contract Oversight activities as well as a summary of their role in the investigations.

Vice Chair Kridel asked for clarification on the interview questions listed in the attachments.

Mr. Montero responded by stating that the OIG office provided advance notice to the municipalities on what feedback they were looking to obtain.

Responding to an additional inquiry by Vice Chair Kridel, Mr. Montero stated that the evaluation had yielded good results, and Mr. Carey would decide if he wanted to repeat the process in the future.

Discussion continued.

Hilary Bojan, OIG Director of Audit, discussed audits concerning the City of West Palm Beach's fire service assessment fee, IT network security at the Town of Manalapan, and IT application security at the Village of Wellington.

Mr. Carey provided an overview of training and outreach efforts by the OIG and discussed the office's plan regarding the budget and staffing.

Mr. Carey concluded his presentation with a summary of the OIG's accomplishments to date.

Chair Vara-Garcia and Vice Chair Kridel thanked staff for the report and their efforts despite being short-staffed.

b. Discussion

No discussion took place.

c. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. New Business

No new business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment

At 2:58 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair