

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

MAY 17, 2018

**THURSDAY
9:28 a.m.**

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Sarah L. Shullman, Chair
Bryan Kummerlen, Vice Chair
David Aronberg – Absent
Peter L. Cruise
Carey Haughwout – Absent
Michael S. Kridel
Rodney G. Romano – Absent

STAFF:

John A. Carey, County Inspector General

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Yadzia Roa, Deputy Clerk, Clerk & Comptroller's Office

III. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Chair Shullman requested that those who wished to speak complete a comment card.

IV. APPROVAL OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (IG) COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

IV.a. Meeting: November 9, 2017

MOTION to approve the November 9, 2017, minutes. Motion by Bryan Kummerlen, seconded by Michael Kridel, and carried 4-0. David Aronberg, Carey Haughwout, and Rodney Romano absent.

V. SIX-MONTH STATUS REPORT

V.a. Presentation by Inspector General Carey

Inspector General (IG) John Carey stated that:

- The mission of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was to provide insight, oversight, and foresight in promoting integrity, efficiency and overall effectiveness in government.
- New staff members included:
 - Liz Gerecs – Investigator
 - Phil Johnsey – Auditor
 - Teresa Michael – Investigator
- Intake activities were compared to the previous 6 months and the following data was generated:
 - The number of calls to the OIG and Hotline decreased by 13%.
 - The number of written complaints increased by 20% and 71% of the written complaints were complaints of wrongdoing.
 - During an intake, the standard must be identified and evidence gathered.
 - Correspondences led to the initiation of 3 investigations, 4 matters were referred to the OIG Contract Oversight Division, and 2 were referred to the OIG Audit Division.

V.a. – CONTINUED

- There was a 300% increase in public records requests due to recently published findings.
- Investigative activities included 12 ongoing investigations and 1 case was referred to law enforcement.

Commissioner Kummerlen requested that future presentations include the number of new investigations separate from the number of investigations carried over from the previous 6-month period.

Mr. Carey stated that:

- The OIG monitored 131 contracts with a total value of \$295.3 million to ensure that contracts were being awarded equitably and economically.
- Regarding contract oversight, 2 reports were issued and 3 recommendations were made, and were accepted.
- During the 6 months of audit activities, 5 reports were issued, all 49 recommendations were accepted, and \$8,836,255 in questioned costs and potential cost savings were identified.
- A focus to share best practices continued and information was presented at meetings of the Rotary Club and the Florida Government Finance Officers' Association in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Budget and staffing continued to be an issue in the OIG because only 23 positions were funded out of the 40 authorized positions.
- Costs could be reduced and efficiency increased by merging the OIG and the Internal Auditor's Office. He added that this would reduce duplication of efforts and save the county \$100,000 each year.
- The proposal to merge the offices included a 3-year transition plan and was considered a best practice in federal government.

V.a. – CONTINUED

- An alternative that did not require any changes to the County Charter included retaining 2 separate offices but transferring the IA auditors to the OIG.
- Plans for the future included:
 - The acquisition of funding and staffing for the consolidated IA/OIG.
 - A more integrated use of OIG resources.
 - Peer review by the Association of IGs July 30, 2018 through August 3, 2018.
 - Continued execution of 8 audits in progress.
 - An Information Technology risk assessment for the 2019 Annual Audit Plan.
 - Continued focus on prevention and education of contract oversight.
- Accomplishments since June 2010 included:
 - More than \$42 million in questioned costs.
 - More than \$23 million in potential cost savings.
 - OIG investigations resulted in 131 referrals to law enforcement, the County, or the State Commission on Ethics.
- The 1 cent sales tax continued to be monitored by the OIG and construction audits were completed as projects were initiated.

V.b. Discussion – None

V.c. Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ken MacNamee, Jonathan Low, Sally Chester.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

VI.a. Discussion – None

VI.b. Public Comment – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:12 a.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Chair/Vice Chair