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

MAY 7, 2026

THURSDAY
2:00 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)
Hillary Bojan, Director of Audit, OIG
John Carey, Inspector General, OIG
Kalinthia Dillard, General Counsel, OIG
Anthony Montero, Director of Contract Oversight, OIG
Stuart Robinson, Director of Investigations, OIG

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT:
Paul Matteodo, Recruitment & Selection Manager, HR

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:
Karla Perez, Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Chair Romano, Vice Chair Blass, State Attorney Cox, Commissioner Cruise, and Public Defender Eisinger

Absent: Commissioner Kugler and Commissioner Vara-Garcia

UNSCHEDULED ITEM

The commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance at this time.

III. Introductory Comments

No comments were made.

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

a. Meeting: March 5, 2026

MOTION to approve the minutes. Motion by Commissioner Cruise, seconded by Vice Chair Blass, and carried 5-0.

V. Six-Month Status Report

a. Presentation by Inspector General Carey

Mr. Carey delivered a slideshow presentation and discussed the OIG's mission. He recognized FAU Audit Intern Nicolas De Jesus who graduated and had done great work for the OIG. He commended several staff members for their contributions and achievements.

Mr. Robinson delivered a slide presentation and discussed the intake and investigation highlights, fraud and investigative reports involving a West Palm Beach resident selling fake documents for submission with County assistance applications.

In addition, he stated that the OIG released Tips and Trends that included steps for government detection and prevention and distributed it to municipal entities and nonprofits.

Chair Romano asked for examples of fraudulent documents the resident was selling.

Responding to Chair Romano, Mr. Robinson stated that fraudulent documents included falsified leases submitted by fraudulent landlords.

In addition, Mr. Robinson reported that as a preventive measure, the office attended quarterly county-wide fraud working group meetings. These meetings were led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and included participation from all local and state agencies.

Mr. Robinson also stated that the summary findings had been shared with 205 members of the Palm Beach County Law Enforcement Task Force.

Mr. Robinson added that three fraud reports had been finalized, while two misconduct reports remained in progress.

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 Fire Stations 87 and 88 in the City of Riviera Beach and their contract review findings.

Commissioner Cruise inquired about the result of the Fire Station investigation, and in response Mr. Montero stated that the Fire Department would make some changes in terms of their processes and procedures.

Discussion ensued regarding special contract reviews and inspections.

Responding to Vice Chair Blass's inquiry regarding a preference between fixed price and cost-plus contracts, Mr. Montero noted that fixed-price contracts were preferred under competitive conditions, but cost-plus contracts remained necessary for facility maintenance operations, despite increasing the opportunity for fraud.

Discussion continued.

Chair Romano asked whether training programs were provided to the permit professionals to assist them in developing accurate requests for proposal (RFP's) and contracts.

In response Mr. Montero stated that training sessions had been conducted and that the OIG continued to offer guidance and best practices for professionals dealing with contract bids.

Commissioner Cruise inquired whether the OIG conducted contract oversight in special districts. In response, Mr. Carey clarified that special dependent districts were a sub-element of the city. However, jurisdiction over independent districts requires a formal agreement.

Vice Chair Blass inquired about vendor insurance requirements and whether they were required to attest that information during a bidding process.

Responding to Vice Chair Blass, Mr. Montero discussed an investigation involving a falsified insurance certificate. He noted that the OIG had issued a report and provided guidance through tips and trends.

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.

Chair Romano asked if the OIG encouraged the use of credit cards over cash at tipping stations.

Ms. Bojan stated that the use of credit cards improved documentation and expense management compared to cash transactions.

In response to Mr. Eisinger's question about the start of the Solid Waste Authority's audit, Ms. Bojan explained that the audit was part of the 2024 fiscal year.

Discussion ensued regarding audit report findings.

Vice Chair Blass inquired about the objective of the Delray Beach Law Enforcement overtime audit. In response, Ms. Bojan stated that the audit focused on the accuracy of time reporting for the officers and identifying overtime overlaps.

State Attorney Cox asked about the accessibility of the audit findings. Ms. Bojan confirmed that the commissioners would receive notifications of the audit results regardless of whether any issues were identified.

Ms. Dillard commended Mr. Carey for his leadership and dedication to the OIG and the community.

Ms. Dillard's slide presentation highlighted workforce training, outreach activities, budget and staffing strategies, IT tool exploration, and the objectives set for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Vice Chair Blass thanked Mr. Carey for his leadership and commitment. He also praised FAU for their outstanding forensic accounting program.

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

Mr. Carey addressed the OIG regarding his retirement and organizational legacy, concluding with inspiring comments to the succeeding team.

In addition, Mr. Carey announced that he would pursue a full-time ministerial position at a church in North Palm Beach.

b. Discussion

No discussion took place.

c. Public Comment

Mr. Matteodo stated that Ms. Dillard's contract was in its final stages of review, with submission to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval anticipated in June.
State Attorney Cox expressed gratitude to Mr. Carey for his successful tenure and leadership as the Inspector General.

Commissioner Cruise commended Mr. Carey for his dedication to the community.

VI. New Business

No new business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment

At 3:19 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Chair/Vice Chair