

SIX MONTH STATUS REPORT

October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

John A. Carey, Inspector General

OIG MISSION



- Our mission is to provide independent and objective insight, oversight, and foresight in promoting integrity, efficiency, and overall effectiveness in government.
- > Ultimately, enhancing public trust in government.

MAKING GOOD GOVERNMENT BETTER

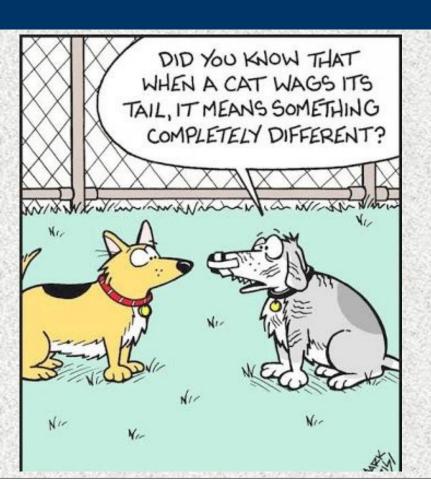
OUTLINE



- > REVIEW OF OIG TERMINOLOGY
- > PERSONNEL
- > OIG ACTIVITIES (Oct 1, 2024 Mar 31, 2025)
- > BUDGET AND STAFFING
- > PLANS, OBJECTIVES, & INITIATIVES
- > SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IMPORTANCE OF TERMINOLOGY







QUESTIONED COSTS



Costs or financial obligations that are questioned because of:

- A <u>violation of a provision of a law, regulation, contract, grant, policy or procedure, or document governing the expenditure of funds;</u>
- ➤ A finding that such cost or financial obligation is <u>not</u> supported by adequate documentation; or
- ➤ A finding that the expenditure of funds for the intended purpose is <u>unnecessary</u> or <u>unreasonable</u>.

1978 IG Act

QUESTIONED COSTS (cont.)



As such, not all questioned costs are indicative of potential fraud or waste.

These costs may represent improper/inadequate accounting for taxpayers' dollars.



POTENTIAL COSTS SAVINGS



Costs identified for return to offset the taxpayers'

burden, or future savings.

Potential Costs Savings are:

- "Identified Costs" and/or
- "Avoidable Costs."

IDENTIFIED COSTS



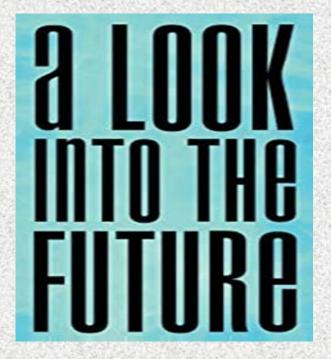
Costs that have been identified as dollars that have the <u>potential of being returned</u> to the entity to offset the taxpayers' burden.



AVOIDABLE COSTS



Costs an entity will not have to incur, lost funds, and/or an anticipated increase in revenue following the issuance of an OIG report and implementation of the OIG recommendations.



NEW OIG TEAMMATES



Intake Specialist Genika Chery



STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Lisa Inkell Certified IG Inspector/Evaluator

Sabrina Tomlinson Certified IG Auditor

Sonya McNair Certified IG Investigator

Kalinthia Dillard
The PBC Bar Assoc Professionalism Award

Executive Women of the Palm Beaches
Women in Leadership Award









October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Office of Inspector General Activities Related to:

- Intake and Investigations
- Contract Oversight and Evaluations
- > Audit
- > Training and Outreach



October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Intake and Investigations Highlights



Intake Activities

	Current 6 Months				
121	1 Complaints of wrongdoing				
15	Intake Activities led to: - 0 Investigations - 5 Referrals to OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division - 0 Referrals to OIG Audit - 3 Referrals to LEAs or COEs - 2 Management Inquiries - 5 Management Referrals				
12	Public Records Requests				

1000000	Previous 6 Months				
121	Complaints of wrongdoing				
21	Intake Activities led to: - 1 Investigations - 2 Referrals to OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division - 1 Referrals to OIG Audit - 6 Referrals to LEAs or COEs - 0 Management Inquiry - 11 Management Referrals				
9	Public Records Requests				



October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Investigative Activities	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
On-going Full Investigations or Investigative Reviews	30	33
Referrals to Law Enforcement or to County or State Commissions on Ethics	18	12
Issued Reports	3	5
Recommendations Made	6	8
Recommendations Accepted	6	8
Identified Costs	\$22,405	\$56,720.22

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ON RIVIERA BEACH WATER CONTAMINATION



ALLEGATION:

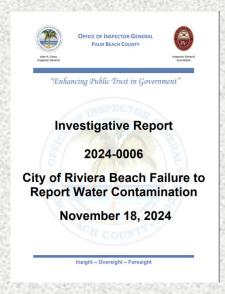
City of Riviera Beach senior Utilities Special District employees failed to:

- > Comply with required water testing and reporting protocols, and
- > Provided inaccurate or misleading reporting of water contamination the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the public.

FINDINGS: SUPPORTED

We found that individuals with oversight responsibilities throughout the Utility District failed to carry out their essential duties, resulting in

- > A lack of reporting,
- The submission of falsified reports,
- The downplaying of issues, and
- Potentially putting citizens' health at risk.



INSPECTOR GENERAL'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ON RIVIERA BEACH WATER CONTAMINATION

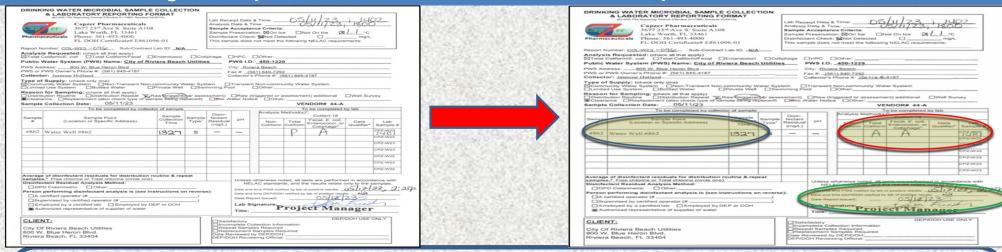


On at least 130 occasions between January and September 2023, Utility District staff failed to report or adequately supervise other employees responsible for reporting water testing results to the FDOH.

Utility District staff also failed to immediately report "present" E. coli results, and <u>submitted false</u>, <u>altered</u>, <u>or misleading test results to the FDOH</u> for two wells. As a result, wells were improperly reactivated for use as part of the City's drinking water system.



Investigative Report 2024-0006: Riviera Beach Failure to Report Water Contamination



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- > The Utility District implement internal processes and controls requiring dual acknowledgment of receipt and review of water sample results from laboratories prior to submission to the FDOH.
- > The Utility District institute regular training requirements for all City Utility District employees.
- > The Utility District institute a policy requiring the creation of a process for resolving reporting and compliance complaints.
- > The City take appropriate personnel action.



Investigative Report 2022-0016: False Information on Rental Assistance Applications – Lake Worth

ALLEGATION:

➤ Two West Palm Beach CARES Act Rental Assistance Program applicants submitted fraudulent applications to the County in support of multiple rental assistance applications.

FINDING: SUPPORTED

- ➤ The applicants received a total of \$10,367.50 in assistance from the County.
- ➤ These applicants falsified documentation, stating that they were renting from one of the applicants' parents, when they were not.

RECOMMENDATION:

The County seek reimbursement of \$10,367.50.



Program

Identified Costs \$10,367.50





Investigative Report 2023-0005: False Information on Rental Assistance Applications – Wellington

ALLEGATION:

➤ A Wellington, Florida resident submitted an application with misrepresentations that caused payments totaling \$12,038.22 from the County CARES Act Rental and Utilities Assistance Program.

FINDING: SUPPORTED

- >The applicant falsified letters from her medical office employer that stated her hours had been reduced.
- ➤ The OIG obtained a full confession of wrongdoing from the applicant. The applicant is arranging re-payment to the County

RECOMMENDATION:

The County seek reimbursement of \$12,038.22.



Identified Costs \$12,038.22





October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Actions Resulting from Intake and Investigations



Charges Filed as a Result of OIG Investigation

As the result of an OIG investigation, in March of 2025 the State Attorney's Office filed criminal charges for over \$75,000 of fraud on a property management employee. That employee allegedly falsified County rental assistance applications and stole identities to effect the scheme.



^{*}This matter has been anonymized until court records are public.



Florida Ethics Finding

On December 11, 2024, the State of Florida Commission on Ethics found probable cause that Greg Thompson, former Pahokee City Manager, violated Sections 112.313(6) and 8(h)(2), Florida Statutes, by using his position to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself and/or another; and by using his position to obtain a disproportionate benefit for himself.



Mr. Thompson

- Directed the sale of City of Pahokee all-terrain vehicles,
- > Declared himself a winning bidder though there was no evidence that he submitted a bid, and
- Purchased one of the ATV's below market cost and sold it for a profit.



October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Contract Oversight and Evaluations Highlights

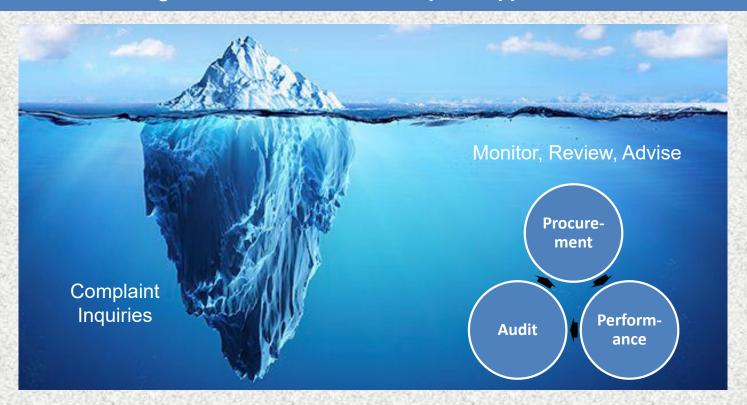


October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Contract Oversight and Evaluations	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
Monitored Procurement Activities	36	54
On-going Formal Reviews/Evaluations	4	1
On-going Investigative Activities	9	3
Investigative Activities Completed	0	9
Issued Tips and Trends	1	3



Contract Oversight Activities Much of our impact happens "below the water line."



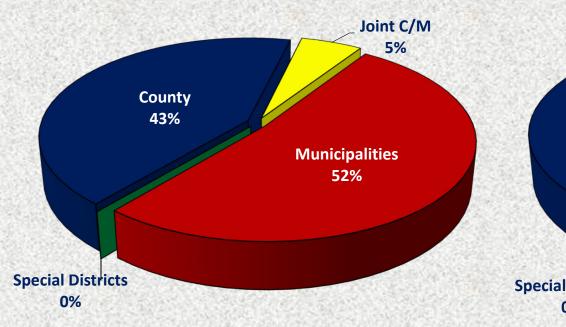
36 Total Activities



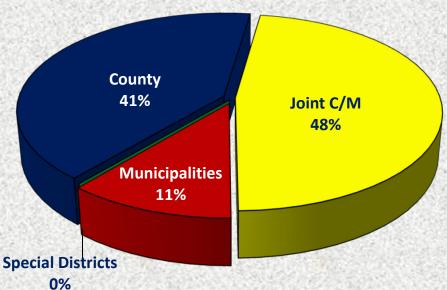
October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Contract Oversight and Evaluations - Monitored Activities





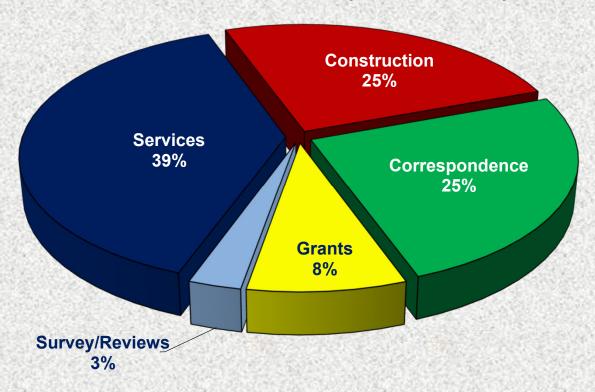
\$381.6M Total Contracts





October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Contract Activities by Commodity



36 Total Activities



TIPS AND TRENDS #2025-0001: Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)

Effective July 1, 2024, Laws of Florida, Chapter 2024-96, amended section 255.065, Florida Statutes, which facilitates increased private sector involvement in building, upgrading, operating, owning, or financing facilities for the benefit of the public.

- Qualifying Projects facility or project that serves a public purpose
- Solicited Proposals
- Unsolicited Proposals
 - > Application Fees & Professional Reviews
 - > Bid or no bid
- Comprehensive Agreement
 - > Determinations on public interest, ownership, financing, and
 - > safeguards for default.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- > That governments review related procurement ordinances and policies for compliance with the Florida Statutes.
- ➤ Implement training for decision-makers, managers, and procurement personnel on P3 procurement methods before approving any comprehensive agreements.





Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) Palm Beach County

Boca Raton: Government Campus Redevelopment

Boynton Beach: Town Square Project Riviera Beach: Reimagine Riviera Beach Lake Worth Beach: Casino Redevelopment

Lake Worth Beach: Downtown Redevelopment/Museum

Palm Beach County: Convention Center Expansion
Atlantis: Country Club & Golf Course Redevelopment

Palm Beach Gardens: Athletic Facility Recreation Center

West Palm Beach: Work Force Housing Projects

\$1.0B

\$80M \$500M

\$155M

\$60M \$300M

\$130M

\$40M

\$138M



P3s typically have terms that range from 10-99 years, and include complex financial arrangements, such as: revenue sharing, lease or purchase of land, and publicly funded bonds.



Outreach, Training, and Assistance



2025 VENDOR OPEN HOUSE

Learn How To Do Business With Local Government

- Palm Beach Gardens
- PBC OIG
- West Palm Beach
- Greenacres
- Riviera Beach
- Broward Sheriff's Office

- Palm Beach
- NIGP South Florida
- Commission on Ethics
- Seacoast Utility Authority

113 People In Attendance

Palm Beach Gardens 2025 Vendor Open House







Outreach, Training, and Assistance

Promoting Integrity and Accountability in Government Lessons Learned







49 People In Attendance



Outreach, Training, and Assistance



Assistance



- Is purchasing food for an employee training event allowed?
- Can you assist us in establishing a new Contract Oversight Division at another IG Office?
- Can you provide any procurement Best Practices for a national training event?
- Are a separation of duties required by law?
- Are advanced payments permissible?
- How do we process donated funds?



Missing mandatory clauses in a Municipal Contract.





October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Audit Highlights



October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Audit Activities	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
On-going Audits	7	7
Issued Reports	1	2
Recommendations Made	4	20
Recommendations Accepted	4	20
Questioned Costs and Potential Cost Savings	\$182,556	\$1,033,136



Audit Report 2025-A-0001 – Contract between the Town of Palm Beach and John C. Cassidy Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Inc. for Bid No. 2018-54 HVAC & Refrigeration Maintenance and Replacement

FINDINGS:

➤ The Town paid the Contractor for HVAC and refrigeration repair and replacement services that lacked documentation required by the Contract.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- > The Town ensure that Contract Coordinators are knowledgeable of the documentation required from Contractors that invoice the Town.
- > The Town implement a checklist of required documentation for the Contract Coordinator to use when reviewing invoices for payment.
- ➤ The Town ensure that time and materials contracts require that invoices be itemized and include sufficient detail to verify charges are accurate and in compliance with the contract.

Questioned Costs \$182,198.27

Identified Costs \$358.00





Recent Significant Report Published After the Reporting Period



Audit Report 2025-A-0002 - City of Pahokee Accounts Payable and Cash Disbursements

FINDINGS:

- ➤ The City did not always comply with requirements in its Purchasing Ordinance and Policy, Credit Card Policy, Travel Policy, and contracts/agreements.
- > The City did not always follow Florida Statutes and purchasing guidance related to its sales tax exemption and prompt payment of vendors.
- ➤ The City Manager and Commission members made inappropriate credit card charges which violated City policies.
- > The City did not always maintain accurate records of capital assets and IT equipment.
- ➤ The City lacked adequate controls over the vendor master file and sufficient written guidance for IT processes.

Questioned Costs \$1,927,729.55

Identified Costs \$18,156.96

Avoidable Costs \$854.06



Audit Report 2025-A-0002 - City of Pahokee Accounts Payable and Cash Disbursements

FINDINGS:

- We found multiple categories of wide-spread, systemic noncompliance with City policy and lack of documentation for expenditures.
- > All levels of personnel lacked knowledge of the responsibilities and requirements established in City ordinances and policies.
- > Former City Manager was willfully noncompliant with City policy.



Recommendations:

- > The City update and implement policies to provide clear, consistent direction and establish oversight for City Manager and Commissioner's expenditures.
- ➤ The City ensure that all employees, contractors, and officials are aware of and understand City Ordinance and policy requirements and their responsibilities.



Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Plan - Audit Activities

In Process:

- Carry-over Audits from Prior Year:
 - Management Request PBC Workforce Housing Program Wellington Club Apartments
 - Construction Contract PBC Facilities Development &
 Operations PBSO Headquarters Renovation Project No. 11206
 - Revenue/Cash Intake Solid Waste Authority Tipping Fee Revenue and Cash Intake
 - Complaint City of Riviera Beach Purchasing Cards & Council Member Out-of-State Travel Follow-Up Audit
 - Contracts/Agreements Agreement between the Town of Palm Beach Shores and Waste Management Inc. of Florida for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection and Disposal Services





Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Plan - Audit Activities

In Process (continued):

Law Enforcement Overtime – City of Delray Beach

Planned:

- > Contracts/Agreements
- Water and Sewer Utility Billing and Cash Receipts
- > Permitting
- Purchasing Cards
- Law Enforcement Overtime
- > Grants
- Construction Contracts
- > IT Network Security (Review)





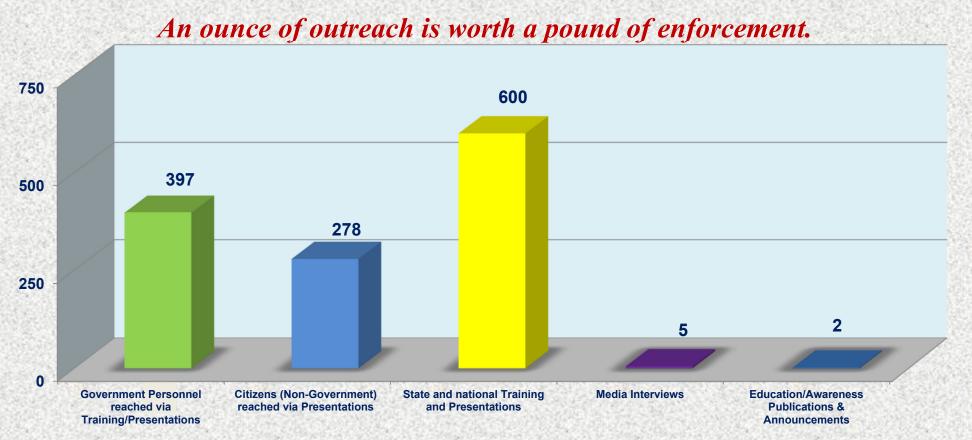
October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Training and Outreach

TRAINING AND OUTREACH



October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025



TRAINING AND OUTREACH



Education/Awareness Publications, Announcements, and Activities

















Budget and Staffing

INSPECTOR GENERAL BUDGET & STAFFING



OIG Annual Budget \$4.4M 30 funded positions = 0.0367%



\$4.4M = Approx. \$2.95 per Citizen or =



"The sheer size of the operations that your office oversees, your office's jurisdiction and responsibility...is unparalleled by any other local government Inspector General office."

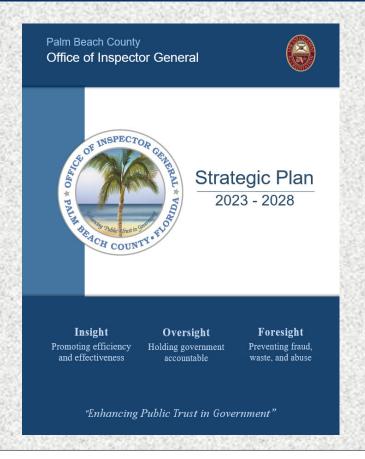
2024 AIG Peer Review Report



Plans, Objectives, and Initiatives

PLANS, OBJECTIVES, AND INITIATIVES





- Continue to execute the Strategic Plan
- Continue to execute the Audit Plan
- > Expand outreach activities
- Explore IT/tech tools to increase oversight
- Adapt and overcome

OIG Values:

Professionalism Respect Integrity Dedication Excellence



June 28, 2010 - March 31, 2025

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE



June 28, 2010 - March 31, 2025

We Listen.



> 13,600 (+) Hotline/Office Calls and Correspondences

We offer an *independent* office for citizens in and out of government to bring concerns, questions, complaints.



June 28, 2010 - March 31, 2025

We Guard and Save Taxpayers' Dollars.



- >\$56.4 M Found in Questioned Costs
- >\$25.6 M Found in Potential Cost Savings



June 28, 2010 - March 31, 2025

We Make Government Better.

- > 1,356 Recommendations/Corrective Actions
- > 91.7% Management Acceptance Rate
- Share best practices
- Prevent bad practices





June 28, 2010 - March 31, 2025

We Hold People Accountable.

➤ Investigations and Audits have led to 22 arrests and/ or prosecutions.



▶ 736 cases have been referred to Law Enforcement or Ethics Commissions.





THANK YOU!

visit us online at www.pbc.gov/OIG