



SIX MONTH STATUS REPORT

October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

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



- **PERSONNEL**
- **OIG ACTIVITIES (Oct 1, 2023 – Mar 31, 2024)**
- **BUDGET AND STAFFING**
- **PLANS, OBJECTIVES, & INITIATIVES**
- **SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

NEW OIG TEAMMATES



**Investigator
Leandro Briones**

**Audit Intern
Yahir Quintanar**





STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leandro Briones
Certified IG Investigator

Sonya McNair
Certified IG Inspector/Evaluator

Kalinthia Dillard
Appointed to the FL Bar's Grievance Cmte
for the 15th Judicial Circuit-D and
The PBC Bar Assoc Judicial Campaign
Practices Cmte

Co-Chaired the PBC Bar Assoc
2024 Bench Bar Conference





STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Maintaining Credibility

Conducted Nov 2023



Accreditation team's conclusion: The OIG was "100%" in compliance with applicable standards.



Accreditation Manager and Inspector General
Chris Dyckman John Carey

Conducted March 2024



The Peer Review team's conclusion: The OIG "met all AIG relevant standards."

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Office of Inspector General Activities Related to:

- **COVID-19 Related Activities (Total to date)**
- **Intake and Investigations**
- **Contract Oversight and Evaluations**
- **Audit**
- **Training and Outreach**

TOTAL COVID-19 RELATED OIG ACTIVITIES (MAR 1, 2020 – MAR 31, 2024)



\$225,000+
Recoveries as a Result
of OIG Work

12
Completed
Reviews/
Evaluations

24
Reports
Issued

23
Currently
Open
Investigations

300+
Intake
Complaints /
Correspondences

30
Completed
Investigations

500+
Referrals to Law
Enforcement

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Intake and Investigations Highlights

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



Intake Activities

Current 6 Months	
114	Complaints of wrongdoing
33	Intake Activities led to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Investigations - 3 Referrals to OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division - 3 Referrals to OIG Audit - 10 Referrals to LEAs or COEs - 0 Management Inquiries - 14 Management Referrals
11	Public Records Requests

Previous 6 Months	
140	Complaints of wrongdoing
35	Intake Activities led to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Investigation - 4 Referrals to OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division - 19 Referrals to LEAs or COEs - 0 Management Inquiries - 11 Management Referrals
14	Public Records Requests

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Investigative Activities	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
On-going Investigations or Investigative Reviews	35	35
Referrals to Law Enforcement or to County or State Commissions on Ethics	22	13
Issued Reports	2	4
Recommendations Made	2	4
Recommendations Accepted	2	4
Questioned Costs and Potential Cost Savings	\$29,900	\$80,889.59
Issued Tips and Trends	0	1

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



Investigative Report 2022-0008: False Information on Rental Assistance Applications – West Palm Beach

ALLEGATION:

- Three 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 \$20,400.00 in assistance from the County.
- These applicants falsified documentation about their employment status and the identity of their true landlord, and falsified payroll documents in support of their assistance applications.

RECOMMENDATION:

The County seek reimbursement of \$20,400.



Emergency Rental
Assistance
Program

Identified Costs
\$20,400

**Referred to
Law Enforcement**



INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT

Investigative Report 2022-0001: False Information on Rental Assistance Applications – West Palm Beach

ALLEGATION:

- A West Palm Beach, Florida resident submitted an application with misrepresentations that caused payments totaling \$9,500 from the County CARES Act Rental and Utilities Assistance Program.

**Referred to
Law Enforcement**

FINDING: SUPPORTED

- The person's name submitted as the applicant had been deceased for six months prior to the application to the County in her name. The recipient of the funds was not the true landlord, and is the deceased applicant's daughter.
- The deceased applicant's daughter later provided false information in support of her own application seeking \$7,100 in rental assistance. The County paid no monies for this application.

**Identified Costs
\$9,500**

RECOMMENDATION:

The County seek reimbursement of \$9,500

NEWS

Inspector general: Daughter used dead mother's name to get COVID money for apartment

COVID fraud in Palm Beach County reaches new level with an applicant filing an application for her mother who was already deceased



Mike Diamond
Palm Beach Post

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



Latest Arrest and Conviction as a Result of OIG Investigation

Palm Beach County Rental Assistance applicant Gerald Rizzolo received over \$20,000 from the County Emergency Rental Assistance Program using fictitious 'loss of employment' documentation.

After extensive investigative work by the OIG, a referral was made to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Rizzolo was arrested by PBSO in March, 2024 on charges of Fraud-Swindle to Obtain Property \$20,000 – \$50,000.



On April 9, 2024, Mr. Rizzolo pled to the charge and was sentenced to 34 days incarceration, 5 years probation, and ordered to pay \$21,553 in restitution.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Contract Oversight and Evaluations Highlights

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Contract Oversight and Evaluations	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
On-going Formal Reviews/Evaluations	1	3
Issued Reports	1	1
Investigative Activities	10	6
Investigative Activities Completed	4	4
Recommendations Made	0	3
Recommendations Accepted	0	3
Issued Tips and Trends	2	1

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



CA-2023-0034: County-wide Review of Compliance with the IG Ordinance and Risk Assessment

OVERALL OBJECTIVES:

- **Review of the County and municipal governments and Solid Waste Authority's compliance with the IG Ordinance.**
- **Conduct a county-wide risk assessment.**

We conducted 51 onsite reviews:

- **39 municipalities**
- **SWA**
- **11 County departments.**

**Palm Beach County IG Ordinance
IG Ordinance (Article XII, Section 2-422
and 2-423, Palm Beach County Code)**



INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



CA-2023-0034: County-wide Review of Compliance with the IG Ordinance and Risk Assessment

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY (under the IG Ordinance):

- **Notify IG of suspected fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, misconduct.**
- **Written local policies on reporting to the IG.**
- **Notice of procurement selection meetings.**
- **Develop training and awareness programs regarding the OIG and reporting requirements.**



INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



CA-2023-0034: County-wide Review of Compliance with the IG Ordinance and Risk Assessment

WE FOUND:

- **The County, municipalities, and SWA were largely in compliance with the IG Ordinance.**
- **The risk concerns expressed by the entities were similar in scope nature.**



RISK IDENTIFIED:

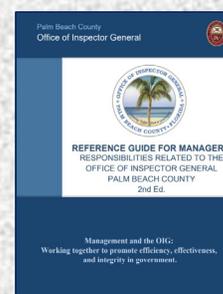
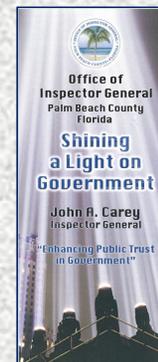
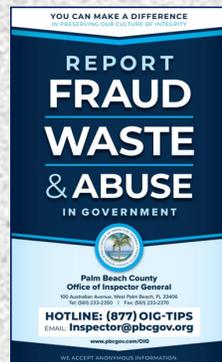
- **Top Contracts: Police, Solid Waste, Fire Rescue, PZB, Facilities (A&E, Construction).**
- **Critical Functions: Finance, Police, PZB, Fire Rescue, Utilities.**
- **Major Projects: IT, Roads, Water Utilities.**
- **Fraud Risks: Financial transactions, IT & Cybersecurity, vendor payments & fraud.**



INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT

CA-2023-0034: County-wide Review of Compliance with the IG Ordinance and Risk Assessment

Distributed during On-site Visits



OIG Media Kit

Strategies for Goal 2

To achieve Goal 2: *Strengthen Relationships and Build Trust with External Stakeholders*, the OIG will:

- Conduct a marketing campaign to build awareness of the OIG, role, impact, and value.
- Increase workforce awareness and access to the OIG.
- Increase actionable tips to the OIG intake process.
- Engage employees and stakeholders to solicit input.
- Increase use of social media.
- Increase communication of Best Practices and Lessons Learned.

Performance Measurement Indicators for Goal 2

- Increased website and social media platform traffic.
- Increased external engagements.
- Increased OIG Hotline calls and email complaints.
- Increased external training engagements.

OIG Strategic Plan in Action

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Contract Oversight and Evaluations

Investigative Activities Highlights

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



OIG Intake Referrals (No Report) – PBC Engineering & Public Works Guardrails

ALLEGATION: An anonymous complaint that one of the two vendor awardees on a guardrail bid committed fraud by misrepresenting their prior work experience.

FINDING:

- After reexamining the bid the County removed the vendor as an awardee.
- The allegation of fraud was not supported.



ISSUE: The vendor in question had the same ownership and location as another business working in a similar industry. The County determined that the bid's qualifying work experience cannot be shared between the two companies because they have different EIN numbers and are two distinct legal entities.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



OIG Intake Referrals (No Report) – PBC Office of Financial Management & Budget Surplus Property Auction

ALLEGATION: A complainant alleged that the County's Thrift Store violated the law by withdrawing a generator from a surplus property action.

FINDINGS:

- The bid and auction process was conducted in accordance with the applicable laws and policies.
- The Thrift Store pulled the item from auction because of incomplete information on condition of generator.
- The assertions made in the allegation were not supported.



STANDARD: Section 274, Florida Statutes – Tangible Personal Property Owned by Local Governments

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



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



INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



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

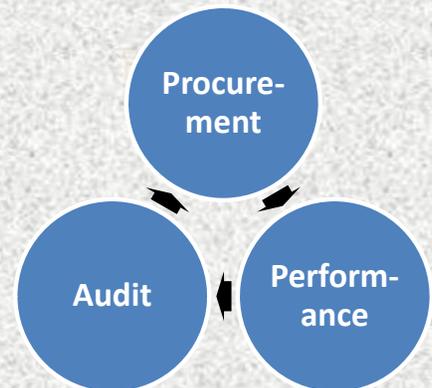


VENDOR OPEN HOUSE
LEARN HOW YOU CAN DO BUSINESS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FRIDAY, MARCH 22
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
SANDHILL CRANE GOLF CLUB
9500 SANDHILL CRANE DRIVE, PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL. 33412

Presented By

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH	CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH	CITY OF BOYNTON BEACH
VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON	TOWN OF PALM BEACH	SEACOAST UTILITY AUTHORITY
FLORIDA'S SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT FAU	OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL	



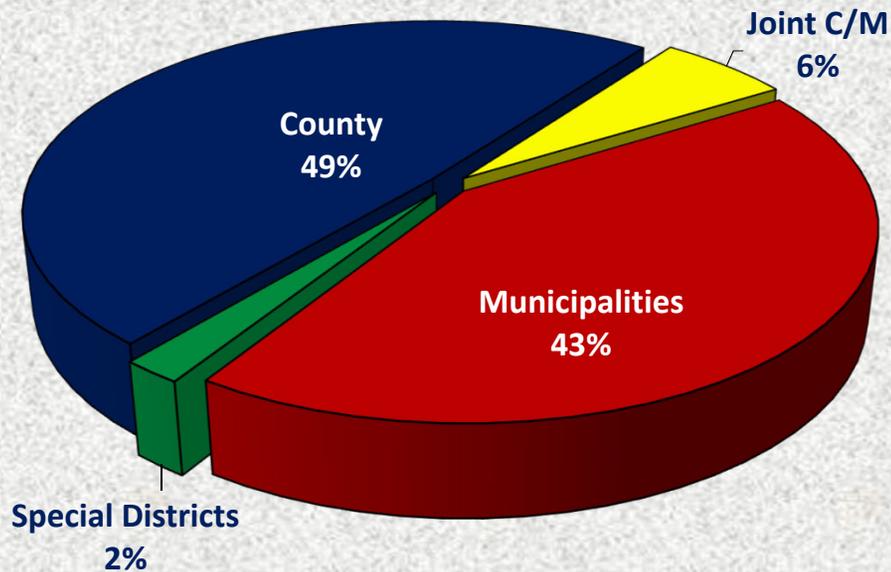
INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



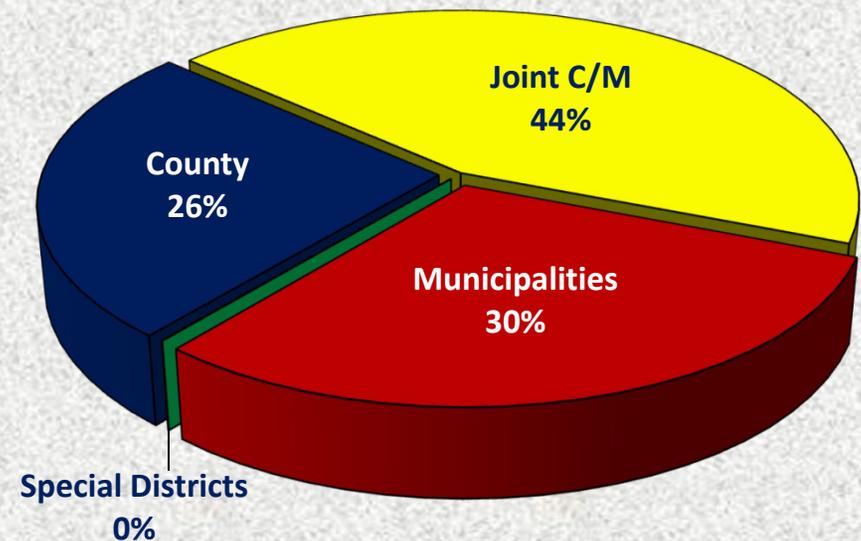
October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Contract Oversight and Evaluations - Monitored Activities

49 Total Activities



\$292.6M Total Contracts

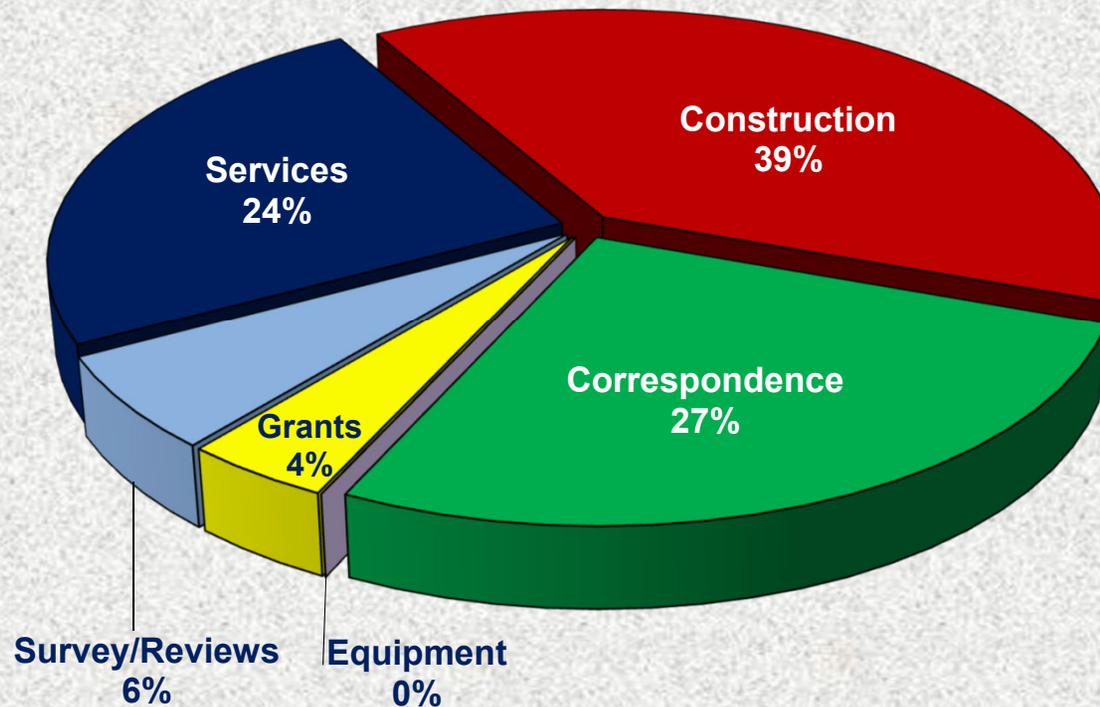


INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Contract Activities by Commodity



49 Total Activities

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Audit Highlights

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Audit Activities

Current 6 Months

Previous 6 Months

Audit Activities	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
On-going Audits	8	8
Issued Reports	3	3
Recommendations Made	18	13
Recommendations Accepted	18	13
Questioned Costs and Potential Cost Savings	\$877,853	\$1,241,334
Issued Tips and Trends	1	0

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



Audit Report 2024-A-0001 – City of West Palm Beach – Fire Service Assessment Fee

FINDINGS:

- The City did not always maintain sufficient supporting documentation for Fire Service Assessment Fee interdepartmental transfers, including:
 - IT General Services, GIS, costs;
 - Capital Lease Expenditures;
 - Capital Acquisition Fund transfers; and
 - Equipment Maintenance Service costs.



Questioned Costs
\$877,853.49

Recommendations:

- Establish and maintain a written review and oversight process for reviewing, recording, and reconciling interdepartmental transfers.
- Reconcile monies transferred to the Debt Service Fund and Capital Acquisition Fund to ensure they are accounted for in compliance with the Fire Assessment Fee Fund purpose and applicable requirements.
- Maintain documentation to support cost allocations to the Fire Service Assessment Fee Fund.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



Audit Report 2024-A-0002 – Town of Manalapan – IT Network Security Review

FINDINGS:

- The Town lacked sufficient written guidance for certain IT processes.



**Policies and
Procedures**



Recommendations:

- Implement written guidance for IT processes.
- Provide ongoing training to ensure staff are aware of roles and responsibilities related to asset control management; asset/component sanitization and disposal; and, incident response and contingency/recovery processes.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



Audit Report 2024-A-0003 – Village of Wellington – IT Application Security Audit

FINDING:

- The Village did not always disable separated users' access in a timely manner.



Recommendations:

- Update policies and procedures to include a defined time frame to notify IT of employee separations and for disabling inactive application user accounts.
- Ensure staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities related to notifying IT of employee separations and for disabling inactive application user accounts.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

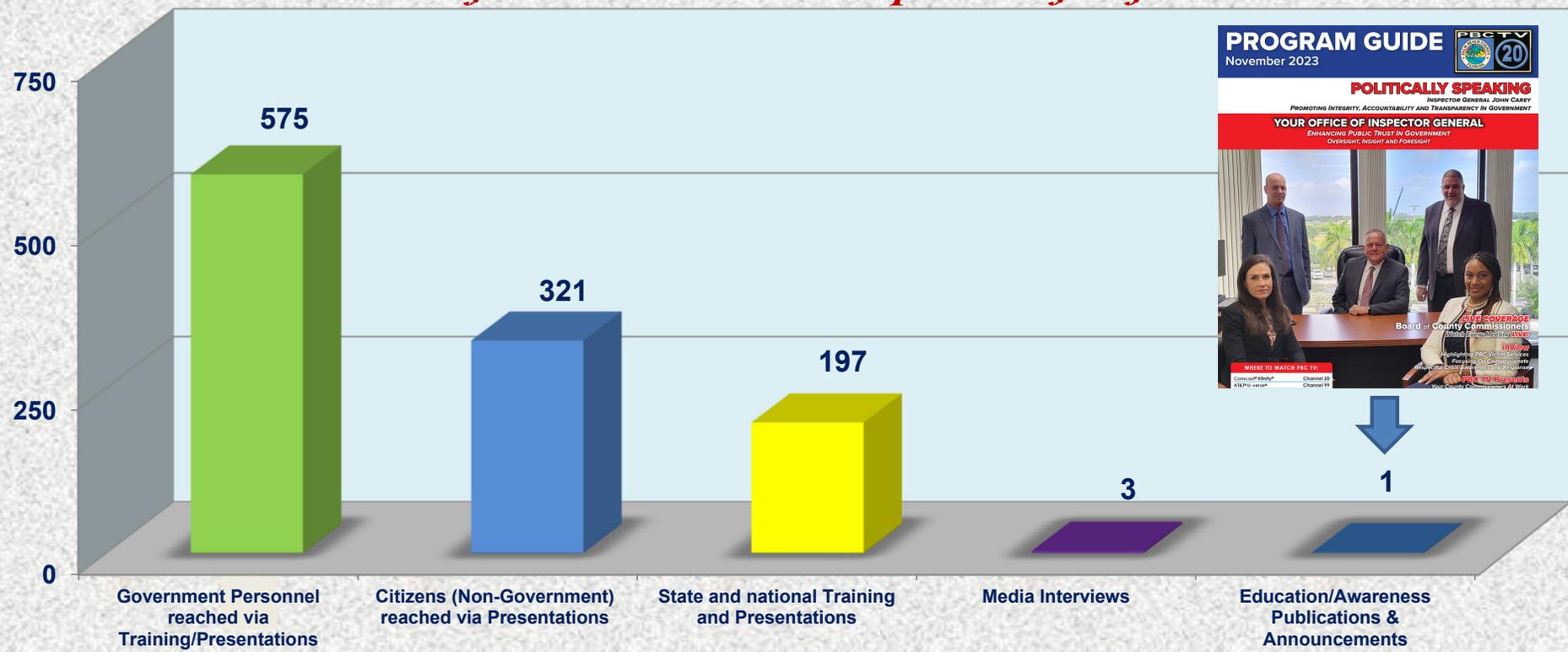
Training and Outreach



TRAINING AND OUTREACH

October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

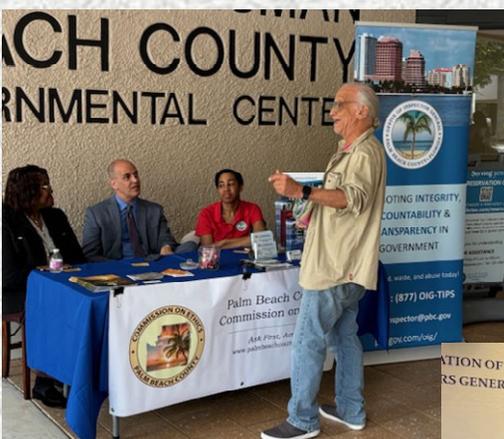
An ounce of outreach is worth a pound of enforcement.



TRAINING AND OUTREACH



Education/Awareness Publications, Announcements, and Activities

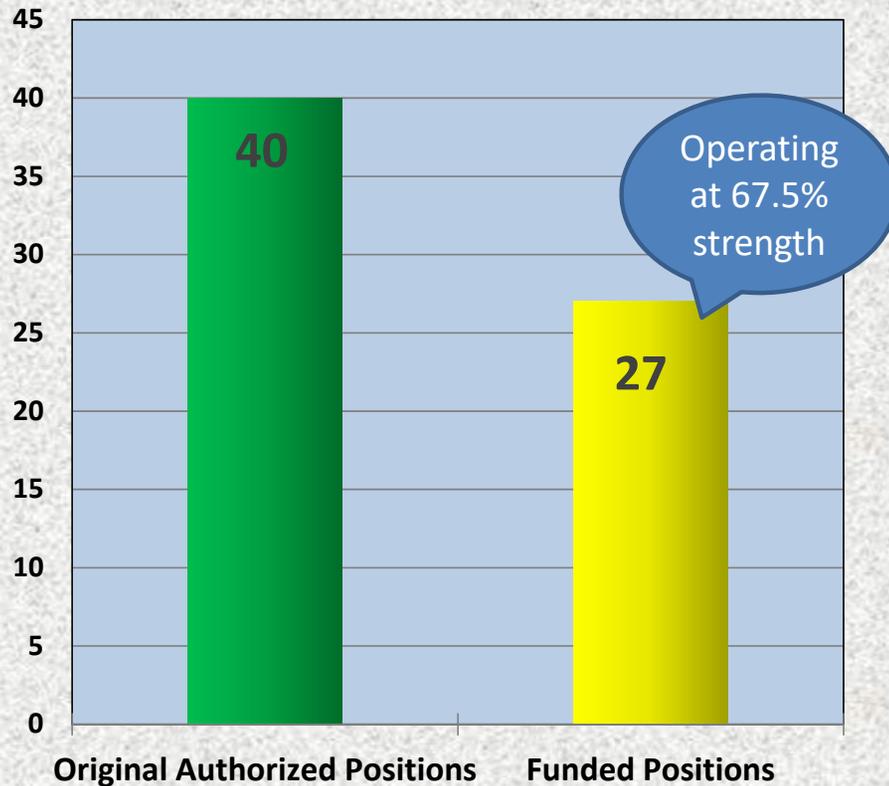


INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



Budget and Staffing

INSPECTOR GENERAL BUDGET & STAFFING



Annual Budget \$3.5M =
Approx. \$2.30 per Citizen

**.04% of Annual Budgets of Entities the OIG
Provides Oversight.**

**“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

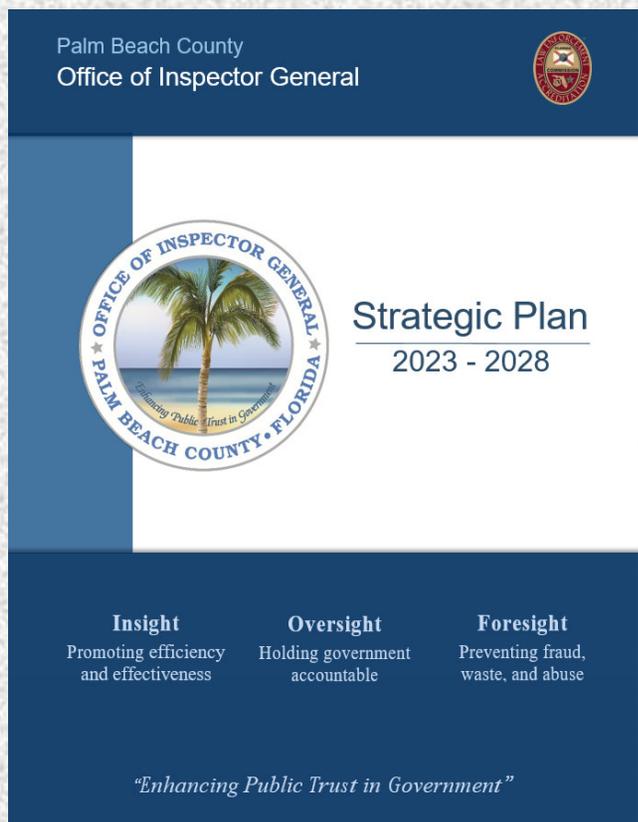
**FY 2025 Annual Budget Request
Additional three positions**

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



Plans, Objectives, and Initiatives

PLANS, OBJECTIVES, AND INITIATIVES



- Continue to execute the Strategic Plan
- Continue to execute the Audit Plan
- Adapt and overcome

OIG Values:

Professionalism
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Excellence

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT



June 28, 2010 – March 31, 2024

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE



ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

June 28, 2010 – March 31, 2024

We Listen.



- **13,200 (+)** Hotline/Office Calls and Correspondences

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

OUTPUT: At the End of the Day, “Enhancing Public Trust in Government.”



ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

June 28, 2010 – March 31, 2024

**We Guard and Save
Taxpayers' Dollars.**



- **\$55 (+) M Found in Questioned Costs**
- **\$25 (+) M Found in Potential Cost Savings**

OUTPUT: At the End of the Day, “Enhancing Public Trust in Government.”



ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

June 28, 2010 – March 31, 2024

We Make Government Better.

- **1,318** Recommendations/Corrective Actions
- **91%** Management Acceptance Rate
- Share best practices
- Prevent bad practices



OUTPUT: At the End of the Day, “Enhancing Public Trust in Government.”



ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

June 28, 2010 – March 31, 2024

We Hold People Accountable.

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



- **696** cases have been referred to Law Enforcement or Ethics Commissions.



OUTPUT: At the End of the Day, “Enhancing Public Trust in Government.”



THANK YOU!

visit us online at www.pbcgov.com/OIG