

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

MAY 13, 2021

**THURSDAY
9:30 a.m.**

**COMMISSION CHAMBERS
WEISMAN GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Peter L. Cruise, Chair
Michael S. Kridel, Vice Chair
David Aronberg – Arrived Later
Carol E. A. DeGraffenreidt
Carey Haughwout – Absent
Michael H. Kugler
Rodney G. Romano – Absent

STAFF:

John A. Carey, County Inspector General

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Yadzia Roa, Deputy Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's Office

III. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS – None

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

IV.a. Meeting: November 19, 2020

Carol DeGraffenreidt requested that the previous minutes show her as absent and excused.

MOTION to approve the November 19, 2020 minutes as amended. Motion by Michael Kugler, 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 John Carey

Mr. Carey gave a presentation highlighting the following updates:

- Anthony Bennett was the new Deputy Inspector General of Atlanta, GA.
- Kalinthia Dillard, OIG General Counsel, was the Chair of the Professional Ethics Committee for the Florida State Bar.
- Mr. Carey became chair of the Professional Certification Board for the National Association of Inspector Generals.

(CLERK'S NOTE: David Aronberg joined the meeting.)

- COVID-19 related Office of Inspector General (OIG) activities included:
 - 26 complaints or correspondences;
 - 16 current preliminary inquiries;
 - 11 current open investigations;
 - 7 referrals to other organizations; and
 - 9 reviews/qualifications.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the 6-month reporting period.

Mr. Carey continued the presentation to highlight the following updates:

- The current 6 months had 88 complaints of wrong doing.
- Intake activities led to 10 investigations, 4 referrals to the OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division, 3 referrals to law enforcement or the Commission on Ethics, 1 management inquiry and 12 management referrals.

Discussion ensued regarding the complaints, the management inquiry, and the management referrals.

Mr. Carey continued the presentation to highlight the following updates:

- Investigations conducted included:
 - Allegations of a CARES Act-related report regarding a grant recipient not accurately identifying the business owners on the CARES Act application.
 - Allegations of the City of Delray Beach's Neighborhood Community Services Director and Assistant Director improperly disbursing grant funds, failure to avoid conflicts, and allegations of the director abusing a company credit card.
- The Inspection division took the lead in reviewing 10 CARES Act business grant recipients.
- The OIG was reaccredited by the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission.
- Contract Oversight reviewed the County's Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability (DHES) Restart Business Grant Program Applications and reviewed 32 business grants recipients selected from the second round.

Discussion ensued regarding the business's grant recipients selected.

Mr. Carey continued the presentation to highlight the following updates:

- The 2020 annual one-penny sales surtax update was published.
- The OIG monitored the surtax process.
- There were 12 ongoing audits.
- There were audit reports regarding the City of Belle Glades and travel expenses.

Discussion ensued regarding audits and investigations.

Mr. Carey continued the presentation and said that:

- There were audit reports concerning:
 - Law enforcement services between the County and the City of Boynton Beach;
 - Revenue for the Town of South Palm Beach;
 - The City of Delray Beach's reclaimed water reports;
 - The County's Fire-Rescue use of County-owned properties.

- Despite COVID-19, the OIG continued to provide training and outreach.
- The OIG requested 2 additional positions for the 2022 budget.
- The OIG continued to provide oversight concerning COVID-19 funding and enhance the OIG’s social media outreach.

Mr. Carey concluded the presentation by providing accomplishments from June 28, 2010 to March 31, 2021.

V.b. Discussion – None

V.c. Public Comment – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Cruise said that he was contacted by School District of Palm Beach County (School District) staff regarding outside oversight for the School District. He added that he also made a public comment about the benefits of having an external OIG at the School District.

Dave Aronberg agreed that outside oversight for the School District was important.

Michael Kugler agreed that the OIG would be an asset to the School District however, there was concern about the additional workload on OIG staff.

Discussion ensued regarding internal and external OIG, agency-specific OIG, the School District, and oversight.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:35 a.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Chair/Vice Chair