

### SIX MONTH STATUS REPORT October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020



### John A. Carey, Inspector General

## OUTLINE



- > MISSION, TEAM, AND TERMINOLOGY
- > OIG ACTIVITIES (October 1, 2019 March 31, 2020)
- > BUDGET AND STAFFING
- > LEGAL UPDATE
- > PLANS, OBJECTIVES, & INITIATIVES
- > SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS





# Efficiency



# Effectiveness



## **OUR OIG APPROACH**



### Oversight

Holding government accountable for resources and performance

### Insight

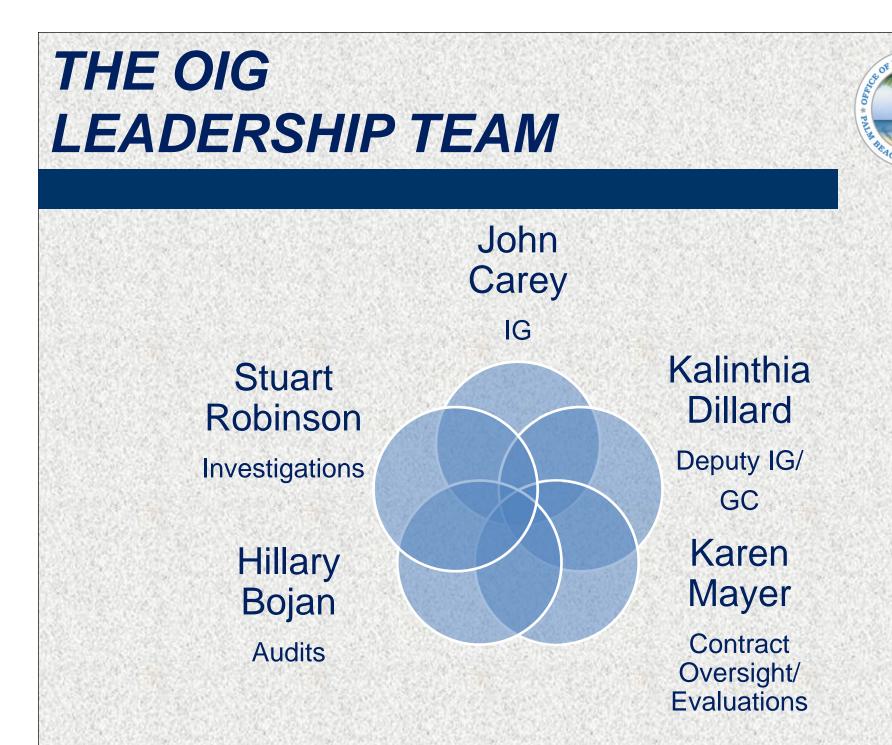
Helping good people do things better

Promoting efficiency and effectiveness

### Foresight

Looking ahead

Preventing fraud, waste, and abuse



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## **NEW OIG TEAMMATES**

### **Executive Assistant Barbara Bellafiore**

Intake Specialist Tesia Morris





### IMPORTANCE OF TERMINOLOGY





## **QUESTIONED COSTS**

Costs or financial obligations that are questioned because of a <u>violation of a</u> provision of a <u>law, regulation, contract, grant, policy or procedure</u>, or document governing the expenditure of funds; a finding that such

questioned because of a violation of a provision of a law, regulation, contract, grant, policy or procedure, or document governing the expenditure of funds; a finding that such cost or financial obligation is not supported by adequate documentation; or a finding that the expenditure of funds for the intended purpose is unnecessary or unreasonable. As such, not all questioned costs are indicative of potential fraud or waste.

## **POTENTIAL COSTS SAVINGS**



Costs identified for return to offset the taxpayers' burden, or future savings.

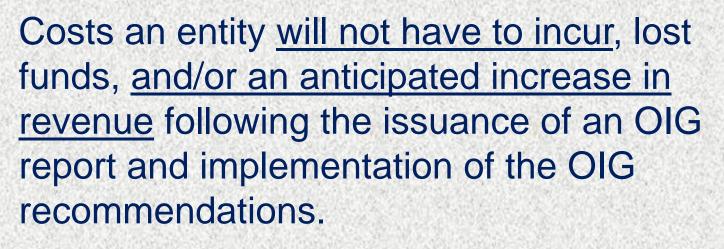
Potential Costs Savings are "Identified" and/or "Avoidable" costs.

### **IDENTIFIED COSTS**

ALL OF INSPECTOR CENTRE

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

## **AVOIDABLE COSTS**



Typically will be three years from the issuance of the OIG report, except in instances where it involves a contract with a specified contract period. In those cases, the Avoidable Costs will be calculated based on the time remaining on the contract.

October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

### Office of Inspector General Activities Related to:

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

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October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

# Intake and Investigations Highlights



#### **Intake Activities**

Current 6 Months		Previous 6 Months	
77	Complaints of wrongdoing	82	Complaints of wrongdoing
23	<ul> <li>Intake Activities led to:</li> <li>1 Investigations</li> <li>4 Referrals to OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division</li> <li>0 Referrals to OIG Audit Division</li> <li>6 Referrals to LEAs or COEs</li> <li>1 Management Inquiries</li> </ul>	28	<ul> <li>Intake Activities led to:</li> <li>3 Investigations</li> <li>4 Referrals to OIG Contract Oversight and Evaluations Division</li> <li>0 Referrals to OIG Audit Division</li> <li>4 Referrals to LEAs or COEs</li> <li>2 Management Inquiries</li> </ul>
14	- 11 Management Referrals Public Records Requests	16	- 15 Management Referrals      Public Records Requests

Investigative Activities	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months
On-going Investigations or Investigative Reviews	8	14
Referrals to Law Enforcement or to County or State Commissions on Ethics	9	6
Issued Reports	2	4



Investigative Report 2019-0003 : Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department FEMA Reimbursement

<u>ALLEGATION</u>: PBC Parks and Recreation Department submitted a fraudulent claim to FEMA for reimbursement after 2017 Hurricane Irma.

#### FINDINGS: NOT SUPPORTED

- Although Parks and Recreation Department submitted an inaccurate claim to FEMA, there was insufficient evidence that the inaccurate claim was submitted with intent to defraud FEMA.
- Department officials took appropriate, timely steps to notify FEMA of the inaccurate claim.
- FEMA did not reimburse the County for expenditures and costs unrelated to Hurricane Irma.



#### **Investigative Report 2019-0006 : Safeguard Document Destruction**

<u>ALLEGATION</u>: County provider Safeguard Document Destruction invoiced the County for shredding/destruction services without weighing the documents in compliance with contract requirements.

#### FINDINGS: SUPPORTED

Safeguard Document Destruction violated County Shredding/Destruction services contract.



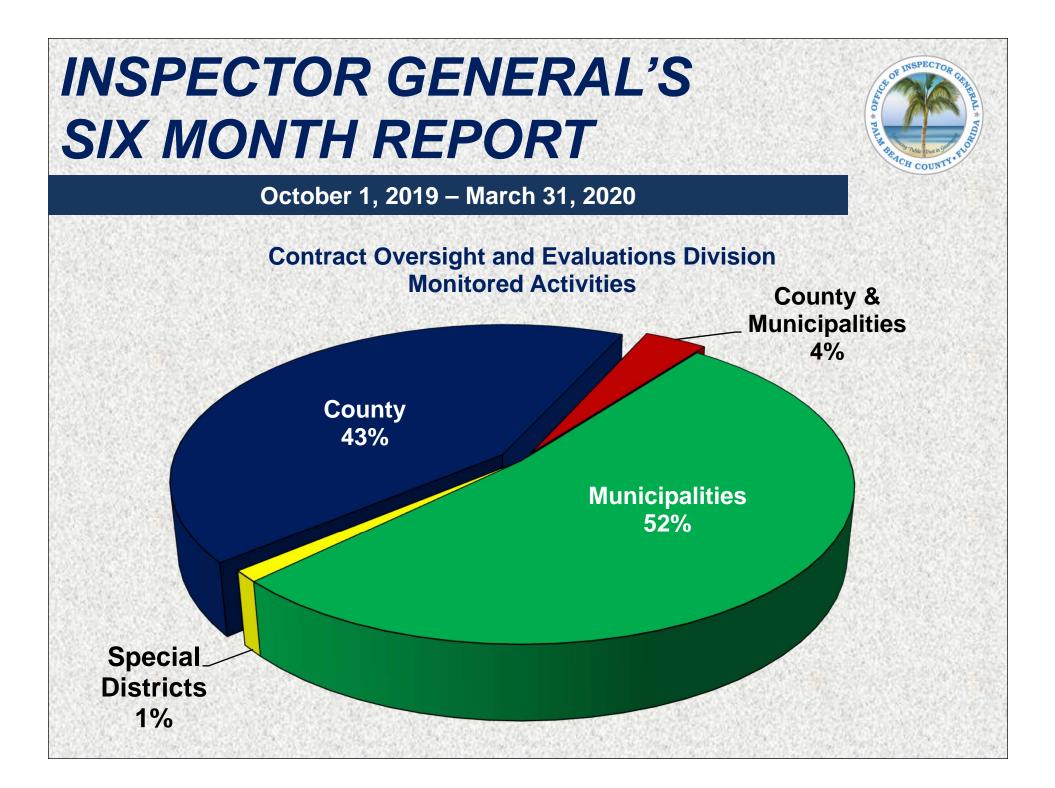
#### **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:**

- The County and Safeguard Document Destruction will ensure that County Departments are properly billed for shredding/destruction services.
- Improved internal controls in the County and for Safeguard Document Destruction.

October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

# Contract Oversight and Evaluations Highlights

NSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020			
Contract Oversight and Evaluations	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months	
Issued Reports	2	2	
Recommendations Made	10	0	
Recommendations Accepted	10	0	
Issued Tips and Trends	2	3	



Contract Oversight Report CA-2019-0065 City of Riviera Beach Follow Up Review to OIG Audit 2019-A-0003

THIS WAS A FOLLOW UP REVIEW REGARDING MISSING CITY PROPERTY FROM A PREVIOUS AUDIT.

#### **FINDINGS:**

> 13 of the 17 missing items remain unaccounted for.

#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

- Item purchase prices were below the inventory threshold value of \$1,000.
- > Purchase receipt descriptions were insufficient for tracking purposes.
- Staff turnover and a lack of documentation hampered location of the items.
- The City is developing relevant policies and purchased a small equipment inventory program to track purchases.





Contract Oversight Report CA-2019-0074 City of Pahokee – Review of Technomarine Construction, Inc. Contracts

#### FINDINGS:

City Manager improperly authorized the payment of \$150,000 to Technomarine in violation of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) Grant Agreement.



- The City failed to comply with Florida Statutes, by not requiring Technomarine to secure a payment and performance surety bond before beginning any work and by paying Technomarine before receiving a certified copy of the recorded bond.
- The City violated City Ordinances and the FDEO Agreement by not issuing a competitive solicitation for services.
- Technomarine submitted a false Pay App for \$150,000 to the City certifying completed work not completed.

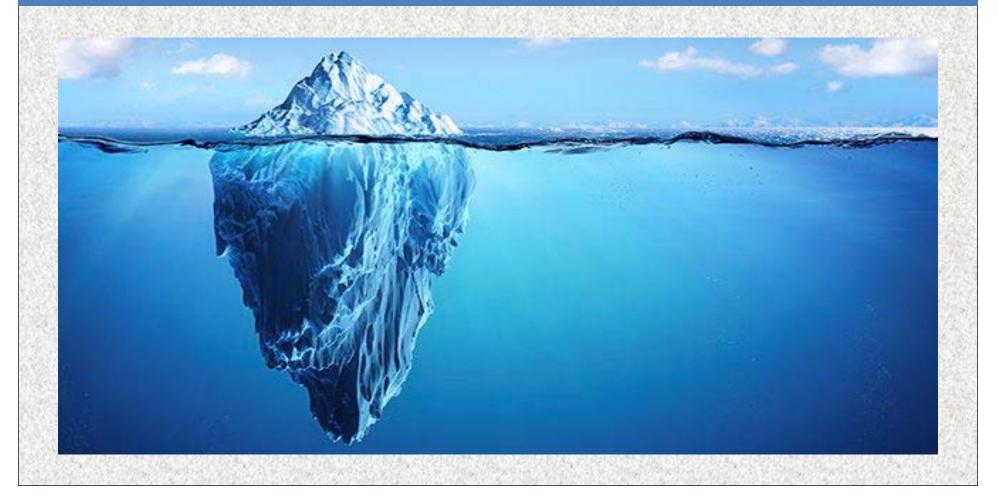
Contract Oversight Report CA-2019-0074 (Continued) City of Pahokee – Review of Technomarine Construction, Inc. Contracts

#### **OUTCOMES:**

- Offered ten (10) recommendations that will assist the City strengthening internal controls and enhancing compliance with the City's agreements and applicable laws and ordinances.
- Referred City violations of Florida Statutes to FDEO Office of Inspector General.
- Referred Technomarine to State of Florida, Department of Legal Affairs for review of potential violation of Florida Statutes (false claim).

#### Questioned Costs \$150,000

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



October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

# Audit Highlights

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October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020			
Audit Activities	Current 6 Months	Previous 6 Months	
Issued Reports	2	6	
Recommendations Made	38	97	
Recommendations Accepted	38	84*	
Questioned Costs and Potential Cost Savings	\$37,333	\$1,119,049	
Referrals	1	6	
Issued Tips and Trends	0	3	

Audit Report 2020-A-0001 – Town of Palm Beach Internal Controls and Data Security

#### **FINDINGS:**

- Generally adequate controls for:
  - Segregation of duties,
  - > Physical security of computers and IT equipment,
  - Security breaches and incidents,
  - Records retention,
  - Malware and virus protection, and
  - Detecting misuse of information and monitoring information use.



Some weaknesses in internal controls and data security.



#### **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:**

- Revising the IT policy for increased controls.
- Limiting access to only authorized employees.
- Reviewing user access annually.
- Training staff on revised policy, and confidential nature of the driver license and motor vehicle information.



Audit Report 2020-A-0002 – Town of Haverhill – Revenue

#### FINDINGS:

- Lost potential interest revenue.
- Lacked sufficient controls, review, and oversight for revenue, cash receipt, and financial reporting processes.
- Lacked adequate written policies and procedures for revenue and cash receipt activities.
- Potential Sales Tax owed for rental of pavilion and baseball field.

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**Questioned Costs** 

Avoidable Costs \$37,049

Lacked adequate written guidance for IT processes.



#### **Corrective Actions:**

- Remitting the sales tax owed for rentals.
- Implementing and updating internal control processes and written guidance.
- Staff will be trained on new and updated policies.

April 1, 2020 – current

# Recent Reports Published After the Reporting Period Noted by Media

Audit Report 2020-A-0003 – City of Riviera Beach Employment Separation Process

#### FINDINGS:

- Insurance benefits paid for separated employees.
- Tuition refunded to separated employees was not recouped as provided by labor agreements.
- Final payouts to former employees were not in compliance with policy, or labor agreements or lacked adequate documentation.

Questioned Costs \$1,261,950.48

Avoidable Costs \$4,968.08

Computer access of some separated employees was not timely removed.



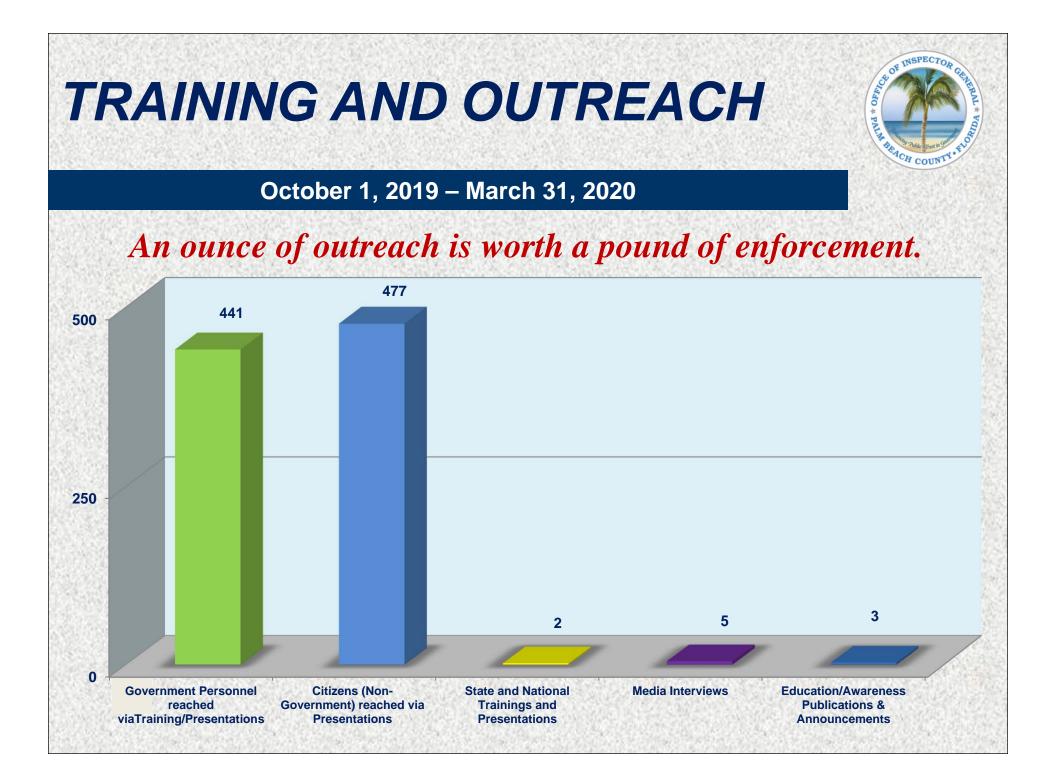
#### **Corrective Actions:**

- Implement a review and oversight process to ensure insurance benefits are not paid for separated employees.
- Implement written policies and procedures for the
- employment separation process.

**October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020** 

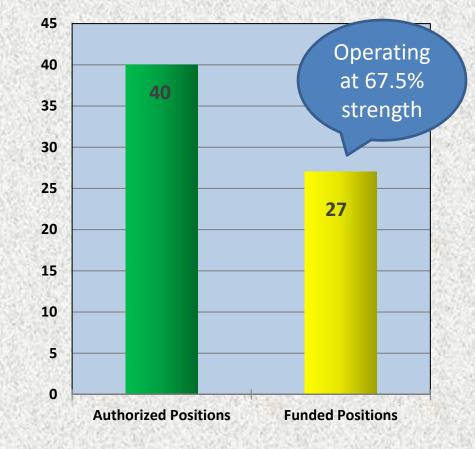
# Training and Outreach

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## **Budget and Staffing**

### **INSPECTOR GENERAL BUDGET & STAFFING**





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### Legal Update

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### COURT RULING ON COMPLAINTS TO OIG



*ISSUE*: On March 13, 2018, a citizen filed a Petition asking the Court to order the OIG to provide a copy of a complaint relating to an open investigation and award him costs and attorney's fees under the Florida Public Records Act.

Citizen relied on several Attorney General Opinions to argue that an initial complaint is not exempted from disclosure under the Public Records Act.

On August 28, 2018, the trial court ruled that the complaint was exempt from disclosure until the investigation was complete.

# COURT RULING ON COMPLAINTS TO OIG



On October 8, 2019, the Citizen and PBC OIG argued the case before the Fourth District Court of Appeal.

Seven Offices of Inspectors General filed Amicus Briefs in support of the PBC OIG's position.

On December 18, 2019, the 4<sup>th</sup> DCA relied upon s. 112.3188 to issue an opinion affirming the trial court's decision. The opinion effectively invalidated several AGO opinions.

### **INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT**

# Plans, Objectives, and Initiatives

## PLANS, OBJECTIVES, AND INITIATIVES

### **OIG Vision Statement:**

To promote positive change throughout local governments and public organizations in Palm Beach County with an inspired and skilled team that strives for continuous improvement.

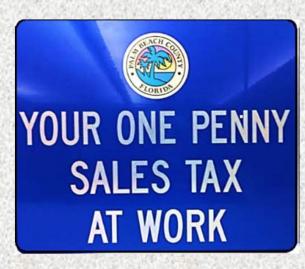


# PLANS, OBJECTIVES, AND INITIATIVES

- Continuing partnerships with Law Enforcement
- Continued expanding Contract Oversight and Evaluations

> June 28, 2020 =







### PLANS, OBJECTIVES, AND INITIATIVES

#### The Palm Beach Post REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

**Coronavirus Florida: County deciding how to spend \$261 million federal** infusion

- CARES Act established a special inspector general and special committee to oversee pandemic recovery, loans, and other uses of taxpayer dollars.
- Association of IGs, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and CIGIE coordination.



### **INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SIX MONTH REPORT**

June 28, 2010 – March 31, 2020

# SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE**



June 28, 2010 – March 31, 2020

### – 11,700 (+) Hotline/Office Calls and Correspondences



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

We Listen.









### **THANK YOU!**

### visit us online at www.pbcgov.com/OIG

