



# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL PALM BEACH COUNTY

*Sheryl G. Steckler*  
*Inspector General*

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*ENHANCING PUBLIC TRUST IN GOVERNMENT*

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*OIG Advisory #2012-01*

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

During the 2011 Legislative session, significant changes were made in laws addressing compensation of local governmental officials and employees. Those changes were effective as of July 1, 2011.

- The 2011 Legislature repealed language in chapters 125 and 166, Florida Statutes, which had allowed counties and municipalities to pay bonuses to employees under certain circumstances.
  - The Legislature also made other changes affecting the compensation of public officials and employees in Florida. As of July 1, 2011, any unit of government that enters into or renews a contract or employment agreement that provides for severance pay must include provisions that limit any severance pay to a maximum of 20 weeks of compensation, and that prohibit severance pay when the officer or employee has been fired for misconduct.
  - Additionally, any severance pay that is not provided for in an employment agreement, but is paid to settle an employment dispute, may not exceed 6 weeks of compensation. (Section 215.425(4), Florida Statutes.)
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