

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

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

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

**COMMISSION
CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Michael S. Kridel, Chair
Clevis Headley, Vice Chair
David Aronberg – Arrived later
Carey Haughwout – Arrived later
Bryan Kummerlen
Judy M. Pierman
Sarah L. Shullman

STAFF:

John A. Carey, County Inspector General

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Minutes Clerk Leslie Dangerfield, Clerk & Comptroller's Office

III. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Chair Michael Kridel stated that this was the semiannual meeting of the Palm Beach County Inspector General Committee (committee).

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

IV.a. Meeting: June 1, 2017

MOTION to approve the June 1, 2017 minutes. Motion by Clevis Headley, seconded by Bryan Kummerlen, and carried 4-0. David Aronberg and Carey Haughwout absent.

V. SIX-MONTH STATUS REPORT

V.a. Presentation by Inspector General Carey

Inspector General (IG) John Carey stated that:

- Every 3 years the Commission on Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation assessed the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for state accreditation. The OIG was in compliance with all requirements and was recommended for re-accreditation.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Carey Haughwout joined the meeting.)

- The OIG was responsible for:
 - holding government accountable;
 - helping people do things better by recommending best practices;
 - promoting efficiency and effectiveness; and
 - preventing fraud, waste and abuse.

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

- The OIG staff worked collaboratively and held more than a dozen certifications and licenses.

V.a. – CONTINUED

- Intake activities were compared to the previous 6 months and the following data was generated:
 - The number of calls to the OIG and Hotline increased by 12%.
 - The number of written complaints increased by 17%, and 63% of the written complaints were complaints of wrongdoing.
 - Correspondences led to the initiation of 2 investigations, and 2 matters were referred to the OIG Contract Oversight Division.
 - A majority of the complaints came from citizens, while some came from government officials or were anonymous.
- Investigative activities included 13 ongoing investigations with a potential combined savings of \$130,774.
- The OIG monitored 155 contracts with a total value of \$310.8 million to ensure that contracts were being awarded equitably and economically.
 - Over the past 6 months, 2 reports were issued and 3 recommendations were made.
 - No responses to the reports or recommendations were received.
 - Questioned costs totaled \$6,437.
 - The OIG identified a concern and provided recommendations to a municipality. If a response was not required, the citizens could take action and demand a response from the municipality.
 - Citizens became aware of investigations when the OIG's findings were sent back to the municipalities or when they were reported in the news.
 - The OIG followed up with municipalities every quarter as required by national standards, and the annual report noted any outstanding recommendations of significance.

V.a. – CONTINUED

- The OIG had oversight over the use of the 1-penny sales surtax received by the County and 39 municipalities.
- Monthly revenue distributions and the intended use of the funds was reported for all 39 municipalities.
- During the 6 months of audit activities, all recommendations were accepted, and \$10,730,999 in questioned costs and potential cost savings were identified.

Director of Auditing Megan Gaillard stated that:

- The OIG developed a new and innovative way to complete audit planning.
- The OIG used common trends to identify more focused audits through a risk assessment of revenue, grants, capital assets, purchasing, infrastructure tax, contracts, travel reimbursements, and the accounts payable/expenditures processes.
- Once these areas were examined, the OIG determined which entities were at higher risk and followed through with a more detailed audit, which helped avoid duplication of efforts.

Mr. Carey stated that:

- Completing audits and investigations was challenging due to staff turnover.
- Training and outreach continued to be a focus.
- Tips and trends were available to the public through the Web site and presented at meetings of the Rotary Club and the Florida Government Finance Officers' Association.
- Taxpayers each contributed \$1.75 per year towards the OIG's budget, which funded 23 staff members who assisted in overseeing 861 auditable units.

V.a. – CONTINUED

- Since its inception in 2010, the OIG:
 - found \$35 million in questioned costs and \$22 million in potential cost savings;
 - referred 125 cases to law enforcement, the County, or the State COE; and
 - made 631 recommendations to improve government operations and save taxpayer dollars.

V.b. Discussion

State Attorney David Aronberg requested that at the next meeting Mr. Carey provide the total cost to taxpayers to fund the OIG and the amount the OIG saved taxpayers by recuperating funds.

Mr. Carey explained that there were times when the OIG was unable to recuperate funds, but helped identify funds previously unaccounted for.

Commissioner Headley stated that the OIG promoted greater trust in local government through transparency. He suggested that Mr. Carey survey the community to gauge public perception of the work being performed by the OIG.

Mr. Carey stated that the OIG office occasionally contacted the press to provide public awareness of certain issues.

V.c. **Public Comment**– None

VI. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

VI.a. **Contract Renewal**

Chair Kridel stated that the committee had the opportunity to review the proposed employment contract between Mr. Carey and the County.

MOTION to approve the contract extension. Motion by Carey Haughwout, seconded by Clevis Headley, and carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS – CONTINUED

VI.b. Discussion – None

VI.c. Public Comment – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:21 a.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:

Chair/Vice Chair