



John A. Carey  
Inspector General

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL PALM BEACH COUNTY



Inspector General  
Accredited

5/10/2022

### IT Network Security Reviews

The Office of Inspector General will be performing multiple IT Network Security Reviews of local municipalities in Palm Beach County.

In 2021, the US public sector experienced 2,323 ransomware attacks against local governments, schools and health care providers: 77 of those ransomware attacks were against state and municipal governments and agencies. The average ransomware incident costs \$8.1 million and takes 287 days to recover. The victims were generally smaller municipalities and counties. ([The State of Ransomware in the US: Report and Statistics 2021 - Emsisoft | Security Blog](#))

A lack of effective Network Security practices increases the risk associated with cyber incidents, which can result in interruption of governmental operations, loss of customer or employee sensitive data (*payment card information, personally identifiable information or personal health information*), financial loss, and loss of public trust.

The projects will be based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity. The Framework's core elements include:

- Identify – develop and organizational understanding to manage cybersecurity risks to systems, people, assets, data, and capabilities.
- Protect – develop and implement appropriate safeguards to ensure delivery of critical services.
- Detect – develop and implement appropriate activates to identify the occurrence of a cybersecurity event.
- Respond – develop and implement appropriate activates to take action regarding a cybersecurity event.
- Recover – develop and implement appropriate activates to maintain plans for resilience and to restore any capabilities or services that were impaired due to a cybersecurity event.

The objective of these reviews will be to determine if entities have processes in place to: (a) prevent network security intrusions; (b) monitor and detect network security threats, breaches,

*“Enhancing Public Trust in Government”*

PO Box 16568, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6568

Email: [inspector@pbcgov.org](mailto:inspector@pbcgov.org) Website: <http://www.pbcgov.com/oig/>

Office: (561) 233-2350 Hotline: (877) 283-7068

Follow us on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/OIGPBC> Follow us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Office-of-Inspector-General-Palm-Beach-County-760833077333644>

and intrusions; and, (c) respond to and eliminate network security threats, breaches, and intrusions.

If you would like additional information concerning our planned IT Network Security reviews, please call the Office of Inspector General at 561-233-2350.