




# Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County  
The Honorable Audrey Edmonson, Chairwoman  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: February 14, 2020

Subject: Former MDAD Employee Pleads Guilty to Forging Supervisor's Signature and Falsifying County Payroll Documents – Ref. IG18-0017-I

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An OIG investigation concluded today with the guilty plea and sentencing of a now-former MDAD employee, Oregna Jones aka Oregna Harris, a former Section Chief assigned to the Real Estate Management and Development Division at Miami International Airport (MIA). In June 2019, Ms. Jones—a County employee since 1999—was arrested for various felonies related to her use of falsified Miami-Dade County documents to obtain a residential lease in Broward County. On August 13, 2019, Ms. Jones voluntarily resigned her County employment.

The joint investigation with the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office stemmed from an anonymous complaint that Ms. Jones was fraudulently receiving low-income housing. To obtain a residential lease at the Broward County low-income housing complex, Ms. Jones was required to provide the complex with an Income Verification Form signed by her supervisor, along with paycheck stubs, as proof that her gross income fell below a required threshold. At the time of the rental application, Ms. Jones' income was approximately \$10,000 over the limit. Nevertheless, she informed the leasing office that she made less money.

The OIG discovered that a forged Income Verification Form—purportedly signed by Ms. Jones' Division Director—was faxed to the leasing office from MDAD. Her division director's signature was forged on the document. The document fraudulently verified that Ms. Jones made less money than she actually did. Further, the tenant file contained six altered Miami-Dade County Payroll History Detail reports, provided in lieu of paycheck stubs. In 2017, Ms. Jones obtained 2015 payroll documents from MDAD HR via County email. These documents were then altered to appear as if they were from 2017 and faxed from a fax/copier machine—located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of MDAD's Executive Offices—to the leasing office.

On today's date, Ms. Jones pled guilty to charges of Identity Theft, 6 counts of Uttering Forged Instruments, and 2 counts of Wire Fraud. The Court withheld adjudication and sentenced her to 3 years of probation. She is required to repay the costs of investigation, banned from government employment, and must stay away from all MDAD properties unless she is a ticketed passenger with permission from her probation officer. The OIG appreciates the assistance of MDAD during this investigation.

cc: Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor  
Lester Sola, Director, MDAD  
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit and Management Services Department  
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor