

Biscayne Building  
19 West Flagler Street, Suite 220  
Miami, FL 33130  
Phone (305) 375-1946  
Fax (305) 579-2656  
www.miamidadeig.org

**Office of the Inspector General**  
**Miami-Dade County**

# Memorandum

To: The Honorable Alex Penelas, Mayor

The Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella,  
Inspector General

Date: July 22, 2004

Re: News Release – Airport Fuel Farm

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The attached news release was issued by the Dade County State Attorneys Office. It outlines very serious charges filed against nineteen individuals, including a County official. The Office of the Inspector General participated in this investigation. The investigation was predicated upon information provided by the Airport Director.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager  
Ms. Angela Gittens, Director, MDAD  
Mr. Bill Johnson, Assistant County Manager

Clerk of the Board (copy filed)



## STATE ATTORNEY

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
E. R. GRAHAM BUILDING  
1350 N.W. 12TH AVENUE  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136-2111

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE  
STATE ATTORNEY

TELEPHONE (305) 547-0100

### MEDIA ADVISORY

**Contact: Ed Griffith 305-547-0535**

#### **11 Arrested in Airport Scam**

*Large-Scale Fuel Theft & Contract Fraud Uncovered by State Attorney's Office  
and Miami-Dade County Inspector General's Office Investigation*

Miami (July 22, 2004) – As a result of a 15 month criminal investigation at Miami International Airport, eleven (11) individuals were taken into custody since Wednesday on a variety of charges (predominantly Racketeering and Racketeering Conspiracy which are first degree felonies) relating to a pattern of fuel theft and contract fraud brought to the attention of authorities by Airport Director Angela Gittens. Through the actions of contract employees' working at the airport fuel farm, and with the knowledge of an airport official, at least 2.7 million gallons of jet fuel was stolen netting the thieves a minimum of \$4 million dollars. Additionally, fraudulent contract schemes were uncovered which may amount to a minimum of \$1.3 million in falsified charges

On Thursday afternoon, July 22, 2004, State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Miami-Dade County Inspector General Christopher Mazzella and Miami International Airport Director Angela Gittens will hold a joint press conference at the Office of the State Attorney to address issues relating to this matter.

The press conference will be held at 2:0 p.m. in room 418-S. The Office of the State Attorney is in the E. R. Graham building located at 1350 NW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Miami. Please arrive early enough to obtain security clearance through the building's security review process.

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