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Office of the Inspector General
Miami-Dade County

Memorandum

To: The Hon. Mayor Alex Penelas, Miami-Dade County

The Hon. Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chair
and Members of the Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella,
Inspector General

Date: May 22, 2003

Re: Arrest of Victor J. Monzon-Aguirre

For your information, I am attaching a news release issued by my office concerning the arrest of captioned individual. By way of background, Mr. Monzon-Aguirre, until terminated yesterday, was the Chief of Neighborhood Services for the City of Miami, Florida. Prior to being appointed to this position, he served as the Chief Operating Officer for Lanzo Construction Company, a county contractor, and as the Director of Miami-Dade County's General Services Administration. He is charged with multiple counts of criminal misconduct, stemming from an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General into his activities at Lanzo Construction Company.

cc: Mr. Steve Shiver, County Manager
Ms. Marsha Jackman, Director – Department of Business Development
Mr. Pete Hernandez, Assistant County Manager
Mr. Bill Brant, Director – Water and Sewer Department

Clerk of the Board (Copy Filed)



**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

**NEWS RELEASE
Miami City Official Arrested**

A City of Miami public official and the former Chief Operating Officer for Lanzo Construction Company was arrested today and charged with multiple counts of forgery, grand theft, wire fraud, and notary fraud. Victor J. Monzon-Aguirre, age 54, a resident of Miami, Florida, is the current Chief of Neighborhood Services for the City of Miami, Florida. Prior to being appointed to this city position in January 2003, Monzon-Aguirre was the Chief Operating Officer for Lanzo since 1996 and a 30-year veteran Miami-Dade County employee. From 1983 to 1996, he served as the Director of the County's General Services Administration. The criminal charges specifically relate to the time Monzon-Aguirre was Lanzo's Chief Operating Officer.

According to an affidavit filed by a Special Agent of the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Lanzo Construction Company entered into a \$5 million sewer contract with Miami-Dade County in 1999. Under the terms of the contract, Lanzo was required by County ordinance to pay responsible wages and benefits to its employees. However, an investigation conducted by the OIG and the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office revealed that Lanzo underpaid several of its employees but still received over \$487,000 in payments from the County after misrepresenting the underpayments. The scheme perpetrated by Monzon-Aguirre to misrepresent the underpayments is spelled out in the affidavit.

In commenting on these charges, Inspector General Christopher Mazzella thanked the County's Department of Business Development for referring this matter to the OIG and praised the Department for closely monitor programs that are intended to assist disadvantaged wage earners and laborers. Mr. Mazzella said that the falsification of documents by anyone doing business with the County in order to validate receiving payments from the County degrades the spirit and integrity of County programs and cannot be tolerated. Clearly, as a public official for over thirty years, Monzon-Aguirre knew that his actions were wrong. Mr. Mazzella hopes that the prosecution of Monzon-Aguirre will send a clear message to the business community that such transgressions will not be tolerated. Mr. Mazzella noted that he expects additional charges to be filed in this case and he indicated that his office would pursue other remedial action in this matter.

Copies of the arrest affidavit can be obtained at the Office of Inspector General, Suite 220, 19 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida, telephone number 305-375-1946 or at the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office, c/o Ed Griffith, 1350 N.W. 12th Avenue, Miami, Florida, telephone 305-547-0535.