



Memorandum

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To: The Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
The Honorable Chairperson Bruno A. Barreiro
Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Christopher Mazzella
Inspector General

Date: December 2, 2008

Re: Investigation by the Office of the Inspector General Concludes with a Plea by
Real Estate Developer Dennis Stackhouse

An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that resulted in the arrest of Poinciana Biopharmaceutical Park developer Dennis Stackhouse (Stackhouse) in September of 2007 has concluded with a plea on Monday, December 1, 2008. Stackhouse was charged, as were several companies controlled by Stackhouse. Stackhouse, who was arrested following a joint investigation by the OIG and the State Attorney's Office for violations of campaign financing laws, plead no contest before Judge William Thomas.

Canalside LLC; Poinciana Partners LLLP; Poinciana Park, LLC; Town Center O-L I, Inc.; and Town Center O-L I, LLC were each charged with one count of Campaign Contributions in the Name of Another, a third degree felony. Canalside LLC; Poinciana Partners LLLP; and Poinciana Park, LLC were also charged with one count each of Excessive Campaign Contributions, a third degree felony. Stackhouse was charged with three counts of Contributions in the Name of Another and two counts of Excessive Campaign Contributions. Stackhouse also pleaded no contest on behalf of his companies.

The OIG investigation revealed that Stackhouse reimbursed two of his employees to hide several contributions to the election campaigns of several candidates. Stackhouse reimbursed the employees through checks drawn on several of the Florida companies he controlled. Stackhouse and his companies had already made donations to the campaigns when they sought to make the additional illegal donations and provided the reimbursement to the two employees.

A hearing to determine the costs of investigation to be awarded the Office of the Inspector General is set for mid-December. The costs are substantial.

The Office of the Inspector General is proud of its achievements in the investigation of abuses to our electoral system. The case against Stackhouse is but one of the many investigations by the OIG into election fraud. The OIG will continue to monitor campaign finances to ensure a fair electoral process so crucial to our system of government.

cc: Mr. George Burgess, County Manager
Ms. Cynthia Curry, Assistant County Manager
Ms. Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Mr. Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor

Clerk of the Board (copy filed)