



Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
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To: Hon. Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Hon. Joe A. Martinez, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: May 30, 2011

Subject: Arrest and Plea of County Construction Contractor Relating to a Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department MCC Contract; Ref. IG11-12

Jorge Eduardo Guinovart (Guinovart), co-owner and operator of Makeovers Unlimited Development, Inc. (Makeovers Unlimited), a Miami-Dade County registered Community Small Business Enterprise (CSBE) contractor, surrendered in court today following an investigation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Guinovart was charged with Grand Theft, a third degree felony, in connection with a contract awarded to Makeovers Unlimited by the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (Parks) for the restoration of two park shelters. Makeovers Unlimited is a construction company qualified and registered as a CSBE vendor under the County's Miscellaneous Construction Contract (MCC) 7040 and 7360 Programs.

In February 2010, Makeovers Unlimited was awarded an MCC 7040 Program contract to renovate two park shelters at A. D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72 Avenue, Miami, FL. As the project progressed, the need for additional work not contemplated in the original contract became evident. Guinovart and Parks agreed to two change orders for the additional work in an amount totaling \$25,300. Between November 2010 and February 2011, Guinovart provided Parks with documentation supporting the change order work and requesting partial payment in the amount of \$15,000. The documents included price quotations, an invoice, and releases of liens from Guinovart's purported sub-contractors. Parks staff found the documents to be suspect and contacted the OIG.

The OIG investigation revealed that the documents were fraudulent. The OIG found that the sub-contractors were non-existent companies with phony business addresses. Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, Makeovers Unlimited was

terminated from the A.D. Barnes project due to poor performance. While the work was left unfinished by Makeovers Unlimited, the County has been made whole by the issuer of the performance bond.

As part of a plea agreement with the State Attorney's Office, Guinovart will participate in a pre-trial diversion program, pay costs of investigation to the OIG, costs of prosecution to the State Attorney's Office, perform 25 hours of community service, and will be debarred from contracting with the County for a period of five (5) years. The OIG appreciates the cooperation of the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department during the course of this investigation.

cc: Lisa Martinez, Senior Advisor to the Mayor
Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor