



## BROWARD OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2022

#### *North Lauderdale Commissioner Improperly Accepted and Used Cash in Her 2020 Election*

Broward Inspector General John W. Scott announced today that the Broward Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued [a final report](#) concluding in part that North Lauderdale City Commissioner Regina Martin's campaign deposited cash and withdrew cash from the campaign's bank account without reporting the transactions in compliance with Florida's campaign finance laws in her election to office in November 2020.

Some of the misconduct that the OIG reported included third degree felonies.

The investigation uncovered that Commissioner Martin and her campaign treasurer: (1) accepted a cash contribution in excess of \$5,000.00, a felony of the third degree, and accepting numerous cash contributions in excess of \$50.00, each a misdemeanor of the first degree; (2) made cash withdrawals, expenditures, and dispositions of surplus campaign funds; (3) accepted contributions that were not made through the campaign treasurer and campaign depository; (4) accepted two or more contributions made through or in the name of another, a felony of the third degree; (5) accepted a contribution received less than five days before the election, a misdemeanor of the first degree; (6) omitted contributor names and contribution amounts on bank deposit slips; and (7) willfully certified as true 13 reports known to be incorrect, incomplete, or both, each a misdemeanor of the first degree.

This last category of violations included deliberately failing to report cash contributions and falsely reporting cash contributions; overreporting contribution amounts; underreporting a cash withdrawal; failing to list a corporate contributor's name or principal type of business; failing to report the post-election return of a campaign sign bond; failing to report expenditures; and failing to identify the full name, address, or purpose of cash expenditures.

In accordance with the OIG's charter mandate, it is referring or has referred this matter to the Broward State Attorney and the Florida Elections Commission for whatever action those agencies deem appropriate.

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John W. Scott, *Inspector General*

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