



BROWARD OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Dania Beach Public Works Utilities Manager Misused His Position to Rig Procurements and Receive Benefits for Himself and Another

Broward Inspector General John W. Scott announced today that the Broward Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued [a final report](#) concluding that former City of Dania Beach Public Works and Utilities Manager Jose Urtecho repeatedly committed state ethics misconduct by corruptly using his public position to secure several personal benefits for himself, solicited or accepted things of value with the understanding that such would influence his judgment or official action, and accepted gifts valued at over \$100.00 from vendors to his own agency.

The OIG's investigation uncovered a scheme by Mr. Urtecho whereby he rigged procurements to award city work to vendors who provided personal benefits or gifts to him and his girlfriend. To perpetuate his scheme, he used his subordinate employees at the city to make payments to these vendors via their city-issued purchasing cards (p-cards), as his own p-card had been suspended for not following city policy. The OIG found that, from January 2016 to June 2019, the city paid a total of \$429,420.80 to the four vendors discussed in its report.

For a pest control vendor, Mr. Urtecho informed it how to successfully bid for the city's pest control contract and then submitted its bid with two lower, fabricated quotes to justify its selection. At Mr. Urtecho's suggestion, the pest control vendor paid Mr. Urtecho's girlfriend \$50.00 to \$100.00 at a time for typing its invoices to the city and provided Mr. Urtecho with benefits or gifts including a \$500.00 check, termite treatment at his residence at a discount of approximately \$850.00, and approximately \$300.00 to \$400.00 in free rodent bait and pest control chemicals.

For a garage door vendor, Mr. Urtecho obtained and submitted a winning quote for a garage door at a city fire house, knowing that the quote would be lower than two previously submitted quotes and knowing that it did not meet specifications. For another project for four garage door motors, using his wife as a conduit, Mr. Urtecho had the garage door vendor submit two other vendors' quotes with its own quote, which ensured that it was the lowest bidder. The OIG determined that the other two quotes were fraudulent. We also determined that, at Mr. Urtecho's suggestion, the garage door vendor or another city vendor, a general contractor, provided Mr. Urtecho with the personal benefit or gift of a garage door repair at his residence worth at least \$250.00.

For a fence vendor, in violation of city policy, Mr. Urtecho split the city's payments for the procurement of fences to expedite payment to the vendor and, in exchange, that vendor provided Mr. Urtecho with the personal benefit or gift of a free fence at his residence at a discount of approximately \$2,500.00.

In accordance with its charter mandate, the OIG is referring this matter to the Florida Commission on Ethics for whatever action that agency deems appropriate.

John W. Scott, *Inspector General*

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