



Joseph M. Centorino, Inspector General

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Joseph Centorino, Inspector General

DATE: 03/17/2022

RE: Investigation of Theft and Official Misconduct Lead to Filing of Criminal Charges
Against City Supervisor
OIG No. 22-04

This investigation was opened upon receipt of information by the Inspector General during December, 2021, alleging that during 2020 an Operations Supervisor in the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management had directed a subordinate to construct a large aluminum bracket using City materials and labor for his own private use. The supervisor was identified as Cadel Aldana.

The information included a photograph allegedly showing the bracket holding several kayaks in the backyard of the subject's home in Hialeah. The Inspector General obtained a copy of a work order placed in what was then the Department of Property Management, showing that, during October, 2020, an order was placed by "Cadel" for fabrication of a "saddle mounted tool box" by a subordinate employee, and that the construction of "two 12-foot brackets" was completed on October 31, 2020. Attached to the order were photographs taken during the construction of the item in question showing an aluminum construction of size and appearance similar to that shown in the photograph holding the kayaks.

The Miami Beach Police Department Internal Affairs Division was notified by the IG, and Sergeant Daniel Han of that unit was assigned to work jointly on the investigation with the OIG. The Inspector General also notified the Public Corruption Unit of the State Attorney's Office of the investigation, which indicated that upon successful completion of the investigation it would handle the case. Department Director Adrian Morales was advised of the investigation and provided his cooperation.

During the investigation sworn statements were taken from the City employee who constructed the item and identified the item in the photograph as the one that was constructed by him with materials purchased by the City, another City employee who had seen the item in Aldana's backyard, and a third employee who had received the request for the order from Aldana. Police also initiated surveillance at the subject's home. This led to the execution of a search warrant at the home, during which the City property was located and seized by police.

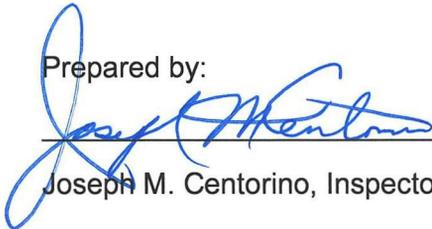
Based on the evidence obtained during the investigation, the subject Aldana was contacted through his attorney and arrangements made for him to turn himself in to Miami Beach Police on

February 16. The City Manager was also notified prior to the arrest, and Mr. Aldana's employment in the City was immediately terminated. An information was subsequently filed by the State Attorney's Office in Circuit Court Case No. F22002893, charging Aldana with Theft of the City property and Official Misconduct for the falsification of the City work order.

The OIG expresses its gratitude to the MBPD Internal Affairs Division for its excellent work on this investigation, to the City employees who cooperated with the investigation and provided relevant testimony, and to the State Attorney's Office for its legal support.

The State Attorney's Press Release on the case is attached to this report.

Prepared by:



Joseph M. Centorino, Inspector General

03/17/2022
Date

cc: Alina T. Hudak, City Manager
Chief Rick Clements, MBPD
Cdr. A.J. Prieto, MBPD Internal Affairs
Adrian Morales, Director, Department of Facilities and Fleet Management

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**KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY**

**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Of Miami Beach Facilities Supervisor Charged
Allegedly Used City Worker & Resources for Home Kayak Rack

Miami – February 17, 2022 - Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle and Miami Beach Inspector General Joseph Centorino announce yesterday's surrender of City of Miami Beach employee Cadell Aldana to Miami Beach Police on charges of:

- 1 count of Official Misconduct 3rd Degree Felony
- 1 count of Theft. 1st Degree misdemeanor

"While stories of government workers using city resources and staff for private purposes always undermine the confidence of taxpayers, Miami Beach residents should recognize and appreciate the vigilant efforts of the Miami Beach Inspector General, the Miami Beach Police Department and my Public Corruption prosecutors who work to ensure that such activities end," said State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

Cadell Aldana, Operations Supervisor in the City's Facilities and Fleet Department turned himself in to the City of Miami Beach Police following an investigation based on a tip provided to the Miami Beach Inspector General. The investigation, conducted jointly by the Miami Beach Inspector General's Office and the Miami Beach Police Department's Internal Affairs Division, led to the City's termination of Aldana's employment last week.

The investigation found that during 2020, the suspect allegedly directed a subordinate to construct a large metal bracket to be used for the storage of kayaks. The task was carried out by the subordinate employee on Miami Beach City premises during work hours. The bracket, however, did not find its way into any City facility, but ended up in the backyard of Mr. Aldana's home in Hialeah. A search warrant executed by the Miami Beach Police led to the discovery and seizure of the stolen property, which is the basis of the Theft charge. The charge of Official Misconduct is based on the suspect's allegedly causing the creation of a false city work order describing the item in question as a toolbox. Interviews of Miami Beach City employees by the Inspector General and Miami Beach Police, along with surveillance of Aldana's home led to the search warrant and recovery of the item by police.

Miami Beach Inspector General Joseph Centorino stated that, "This investigation would not have succeeded without the full cooperation of City of Miami Beach employees who provided crucial sworn testimony attesting to the facts of the case as well as the involvement of Miami Beach Police who worked jointly with my office to complete the investigation. This illustrates the importance of encouraging public employees to come forward to authorities to protect the City's taxpayers from this type of misuse of City resources."

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FOR FURTHER
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