



BROWARD OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Status Report to the Broward Office of the Inspector General by the City of Hollywood Police Department

Broward Inspector General John W. Scott announced today that the Broward Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has received a [status report](#) from the Hollywood Police Department (HPD) regarding recommendations the OIG made in its final report finding that HPD officials grossly mismanaged the operation of its Property and Evidence Unit (PEU), failing to institute protocols consistent with industry standards and failing to ensure the unit's compliance with protocols already established by the department facilitated an environment where the theft of \$137,609 in currency and 1,096 pills from the evidence room when undetected. The OIG report can be viewed at www.browardig.org. At the conclusion of the report, the OIG acknowledged initial remedial steps taken by the city, but recommended additional action.

Chief of Police Tomas Sanchez has now provided the OIG a status report that details the results of HPD's remedial actions, which Chief Sanchez characterized as involving "a considerable financial and human resource investment." Those actions include:

- The continued purging of items from the PEU, including 1,224 items purged and another 3,440 items identified to be purged;
- Two additional drug burns and a third one scheduled;
- The transport of an additional 100 firearms to the Broward Sheriff's Office for destruction, bringing the total number of firearms destroyed since the start of the OIG investigation to 502;
- The creation of two additional PEU clerk positions, resulting in the expenditure of approximately \$275,000 in additional recurring salary and personnel costs since the beginning of the investigation;
- The finalization of a manual which establishes guidelines for the PEU; and
- The expenditure of an additional approximately \$66,000 for upgraded storage, scanning, and video surveillance functions.

In addition, HPD has begun meeting with vendors to research new technology that allows for scanning to accurately track, inventory, and audit property and evidence. HPD has also arranged for a PEU supervisor and a PEU clerk to receive training provided by the Property and Evidence Association of Florida.