



BROWARD OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2018

Billing Errors under Town of Southwest Ranches Franchise Agreements for Waste Collection and Disposal

Broward Inspector General John W. Scott issued a [final report](#) today following an investigation into the administration of franchise agreements between the Town of Southwest Ranches and Southern Waste Systems, LLC and its successor LGL Recycling, LLC (together, LGL) and between the town and Sun-Bergeron, JV for the collection and disposal of residential and commercial waste within the town.

Although the OIG did not report a misconduct or gross mismanagement finding, its investigation directly resulted in the recovery of \$82,100.87 out of the \$91,994.51 that it found LGL and Sun-Bergeron overbilled and under-credited the town and its businesses.

LGL was the town's contracted franchisee for waste collection and disposal of solid waste, recyclables, and bulk waste from October 2012 to September 2017. The most significant error the OIG identified occurred in LGL's billing the town for solid waste disposal during the first year of the contract. The review also led the OIG to inspect the town's contract with LGL's affiliated company, Sun-Bergeron, the town's designated solid waste disposal vendor from July 2012 to March 2018. The investigation also revealed that Sun-Bergeron never credited the town for a contract preparation and administration expense as required in their agreement.

Near the conclusion of the investigation, LGL released \$40,509.60 in withheld payments to the town and committed to return \$11,591.27 to its commercial customers within the town, and Sun-Bergeron paid the town a \$30,000 check.

Although the OIG is concerned about the town's vigilance in contract management and payment oversight, it found that town officials are presently engaged in sincere efforts to improve controls, better train staff, and otherwise rectify the reported missteps. The town, LGL, and Sun-Bergeron exhibited cooperation during the investigation and resolved all but \$9,893.64 of the identified billing errors.

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