



## BROWARD OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2018

#### *Hallandale Beach Officials Violated Florida's Sunshine and Public Records Laws*

Broward Office of the Inspector General John W. Scott issued a [final report](#) today finding that Hallandale Beach's mayor Joy Cooper and commissioners Bill Julian and Anthony Sanders, then sitting elected officials, made at least \$239,693 in expenditures outside the public's view and reach in violation of Florida's Sunshine and public records laws, disrespecting the government transparency, government accountability, and public participation principles behind Florida's open government laws.

The violations were made in the administration of The Future Foundation, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization created, led, and administered by city officials and city staff on city property.

Even though the Future Foundation's relationship with the city subjected it to the state's sunshine law, the three officials participated in foundation board meetings that were never noticed to the public. During their most recent period of uninterrupted service, Mayor Cooper, who served as the foundation's president for 14 meetings where minutes were not recorded, attended at least 26 of these unnoticed meetings in total. Former commissioners Julian and Sanders attended at least two each.

The OIG also found that Mayor Cooper obstructed access to foundation documents requested by a member of the public, violating state public records law.

The OIG is referring this matter to the Broward State Attorney's Office for whatever action it deems appropriate.