



# Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor  
Miami-Dade County

From: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General 

Date: May 23, 2024

Subject: OIG Report of Investigation – Lack of County Policy Regarding Criminal History Checks for Interdepartmental Employee Transfers, Ref. IG23-0014-I

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Attached please find a copy of the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG's) Report of Investigation detailing the interdepartmental transfer of a Miami-Dade County employee with a conviction for fraud to a position of fiduciary trust. The genesis of this investigation involved the falsification of a resume and employment application by a former employee of the Seaport Department (Seaport) and Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW). The employee has since been terminated.

During this investigation, the OIG discovered that the County lacks formal policies and procedures for reviewing the potential impact of an employee's criminal history during interdepartmental transfers. The report also highlights the importance of periodic training for personnel tasked with the employment application review and verification process.

Prior to the issuance of this final report, and pursuant to Section 2-1076(f) of the Code of Miami-Dade County, the affected Departments were provided with a copy of the draft report for their independent review and an opportunity to submit a discretionary written response. All responses have been made a part of the final report.

This final report contains three recommendations for your consideration and, as such, the OIG requests a status report in 60 days regarding the County's position and implementation of these recommendations. We look forward to receiving your response on or before July 23, 2024.

The OIG would like to thank all parties involved for their cooperation and for the courtesies extended to the OIG during this investigation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

## Attachment

cc: Carladenise Edwards, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the Mayor  
Melanie McLean, Interim Director, Human Resources  
Eulois Cleckley, Director, Department of Transportation and Public Works  
Hydi Webb, Director, Seaport  
Christopher Kovanes (under separate cover)



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**IG23-0014-I**

**I. INTRODUCTION & SYNOPSIS**

In September 2023, the Miami-Dade County (County) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was contacted by a federal agency for assistance in determining whether Christopher Kovanes was a current County employee. Once the OIG confirmed Mr. Kovanes' employment, a contact at the federal agency informed the OIG that Mr. Kovanes was a convicted felon.

The OIG discovered that Mr. Kovanes had been the Town Administrator for the Town of Davie in Broward County from October 2004<sup>1</sup> until his arrest in November 2005. During his employment with the Town of Davie, Mr. Kovanes was accused of defrauding the Town of Davie of nearly \$500,000 through shell companies he had formed. In 2009, Mr. Kovanes pled guilty to multiple counts of Organized Scheme to Defraud and Money Laundering and was sentenced to 12 years in prison, followed by 10 years of probation. (Exhibit 1)

The OIG initiated this investigation to determine whether Mr. Kovanes' criminal history was properly evaluated prior to his employment as an Administrative Officer (AO) 3 with DTPW— a position reporting directly to DTPW's Chief of Contracts and Procurement. As an AO3, Mr. Kovanes' responsibilities included preparing procurement documents, such as invitations to bid and requests for proposals, and ensuring contract compliance of project documentation from initiation to contract award and implementation. The OIG reviewed Mr. Kovanes' criminal history and determined that his County responsibilities have a nexus to the activity he was convicted of as a public official, which should have disqualified him from the position pursuant to Section 2-31(b)(4) of the Code of Miami-Dade County (the Code).

Initially hired by the Miami-Dade County Seaport Department (Seaport) as a part-time Seaport Passenger Safety Officer, Mr. Kovanes later applied for an AO3 position with DTPW, which he received. The OIG reviewed Mr. Kovanes' personnel file and found that Mr. Kovanes had not been forthcoming with the County about his employment history and his ongoing probationary status. The OIG also found that Mr. Kovanes failed to comply with established procedures for requesting and reporting outside employment.

Finally, during the investigation, the OIG learned that the County has no formal policy or procedure requiring departments to review an employee's criminal history when changing job positions or transferring departments within the County.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Kovanes served as interim Town Administrator from October 2004 until the position became permanent in April 2005.

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**II. OIG JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY**

In accordance with Section 2-1076 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, the Inspector General has the authority to make investigations of County affairs; audit, inspect, and review past, present, and proposed County and Public Health Trust programs, accounts, records, contracts, and transactions; conduct reviews, audits, inspections, and investigations of County and Public Health Trust departments, offices, agencies, and boards; and require reports from County and Public Health Trust officials and employees, including the Mayor, regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Inspector General.

**III. GOVERNING AUTHORITIES**

***Code of Miami-Dade County – Criminal History Screening Practices***

Pursuant to Section 2-31(b)(4), *Criminal history screening practices* of the Code once a conditional offer of employment is made to an applicant, the County reviews the criminal history to determine whether the conviction disqualifies the applicant for the position. In doing so, the County considers:

- a. The nature of the conviction;
- b. The time that has elapsed since the conviction;
- c. Whether there is a relationship between the conviction and the position's duties and responsibilities and the bearing, if any, the conviction may have on the applicant's fitness or ability to perform one or more such duties and responsibilities and whether the duties of employment would place a co-worker or the public in potential danger; and
- d. Any information produced by the applicant or produced on his or her behalf regarding his or her rehabilitation and good conduct.

While the aforementioned practices apply to most employees, they do not apply to the hiring of law enforcement officers, police complaint officers, police dispatchers, fire rescue dispatchers, fire fighters, correctional officers, correctional technicians, correctional labor supervisors, or any position in the Property Appraiser's Office that has access to taxpayers' confidential information, as defined by Florida Law.

***Administrative Order (AO) 7-21***  
***Personnel Policy for Centralized Employment Services***

The AO sets forth the County's policy providing uniform hiring procedures Countywide, responsibilities of the Human Resources department, and those of County departments seeking to recruit and hire employees. Among the responsibilities of the hiring departments is the following:

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(7) CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION

...The hiring department shall be responsible for evaluating the authenticity of all required employment documents and employment claims made with regard to the applicant selected for employment as it deems necessary.

***Code of Miami-Dade County – Outside Employment by County Employees***

Outside employment activities for full-time County employees are governed by Section 2-11 and 2-11.1 of the Code, Administrative Order (AO) 7-1, and Miami-Dade County Procedures - Human Resources Procedure 403. In brief, these sections require prior approval in writing by the employee's department director before engaging in outside employment. The approval must also be renewed on an annual basis. Copies of all requests for outside employment are maintained in the centralized personnel files of the Human Resources Department. The employees' department shall also maintain appropriate records regarding outside employment requests.

***Code of Miami-Dade County – Sec. 2-11(a)-(c)***

Sections 2-11(a) and (b) provide that although generally prohibited, incidental or occasional outside employment, that is not detrimental, adverse to the County's interests, does not use County resources or equipment, and is not performed on County time, is allowed as long as the provisions in subsection (c) are met.

***Section 2-11(c) Approval of department head required***

Any outside employment by any full-time County employee must first be approved in writing by the employee's department head who shall maintain a complete record of such employment.

***Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance***  
***Sec. 2-11.1(k)(2) Prohibition on Outside Employment***

...employees engaged in any outside employment ...shall file, under oath, an annual report indicating the source of the outside employment, the nature of the work being done pursuant to same, and any amount or types of money or other consideration received by the employee from said outside employment. Said County employee's reports shall be filed with the supervisor of elections no later than 12:00 noon on July 1st of each year.

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**IV. INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

The OIG confirmed Mr. Kovanes is a convicted felon, convicted in 2009 in Broward County for Organized Scheme to Defraud and Money Laundering. He was sentenced to 12 years of state prison, followed by 10 years of probation. Certified Florida Prison Records for Mr. Kovanes show he was incarcerated from November 16, 2009, and released on December 18, 2019, to begin his 10-year term of probation. He is currently on probation with the State of Florida Department of Corrections (Florida DOC) until December 2029.

Mr. Kovanes began his Miami-Dade County employment with the Seaport as a part-time Seaport Passenger Safety Officer on March 7, 2022. Six months later, on September 5, 2022, he began his new position with DTPW as an AO3.

Shortly after the OIG learned of Mr. Kovanes' criminal history and probationary status, the OIG notified the DTPW Director due to his position in DTPW's Goods and Services Division. After being notified by the OIG, DTPW moved Mr. Kovanes to its Safety and Security Division, effective October 3, 2023.

As a Seaport Passenger Safety Officer, Mr. Kovanes was hired by the Seaport on March 7, 2022, to a part-time position. As part of the pre-employment process, the County's Human Resources Department (Human Resources) conducted a criminal history check on February 22, 2022. The entire criminal history report shows his conviction, sentence, and subsequent probation and is maintained as part of his official personnel file.

The OIG contacted Human Resources and the Human Resources sections of the Seaport and DTPW to learn about Mr. Kovanes' hiring and subsequent transfer. While an employee's criminal background results are reviewed by the department initially hiring the individual, they are generally not provided to or reviewed by subsequent departments when the employee seeks a transfer, unless specifically requested. As such, if the employee's criminal history is not routinely reviewed, there is no subsequent evaluation of the employee's criminal history to determine if it may be relevant to their new position.

**Finding 1: Christopher Kovanes provided false information on his County employment application.**

The OIG reviewed Mr. Kovanes' County employment history, including his complete personnel file, which included his initial application, resume, and references as well as subsequent documents provided while seeking a transfer to DTPW.

On his initial candidate resume for the Seaport position (Exhibit 2), dated February 15, 2022, Mr. Kovanes listed the following information for his work experience:

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- *1/10/2009 to 5/27/2013 – Coordinator, Reeves Development*
- *6/22/2013 to 8/31/2021 – Project Manager, Silvergate Corporation*

In addition to his work history, Mr. Kovanes was also asked to provide references. On February 15, 2022, Mr. Kovanes provided the Seaport with two contacts via email. (Exhibit 3)

- *Chuck Forest – current supervisor – (619) 720-3350 – is currently in San Diego, CA*
- *James Ollivierre – past work – (561) 724-0498*

On February 16, 2022, Seaport HR personnel contacted each of these individuals at the phone numbers provided. Mr. Chuck Forest claimed he owned Silvergate and reported that Mr. Kovanes had been employed with his company from 2010 to the present. Mr. Forest listed among Mr. Kovanes' responsibilities, managing employees and assisting subcontractors.

Mr. Forest's information conflicts with the dates provided by Mr. Kovanes himself in his candidate resume, as he listed that his employment with Silvergate began in 2013. The date also conflicts with Mr. Kovanes' incarceration from October 2009 through December 2018.

When contacted by Seaport HR, Mr. Ollivierre stated that he supervised Mr. Kovanes from 2009 through 2013. In response to questions from Seaport HR, Mr. Ollivierre claimed that Mr. Kovanes' responsibilities included verifying on-site projects and ordering supplies. However, Mr. Ollivierre claimed that he supervised Mr. Kovanes at a company called Consolidated Asset, which conflicts with the company Mr. Kovanes listed on his candidate resume, Reeves Development. The OIG found that Mr. Kovanes incorporated Consolidated Asset Management Unlimited Inc. on February 28, 2020, eleven years after Mr. Ollivierre claimed he supervised Mr. Kovanes at the company between 2009 and 2013.

In his application for the DTPW position, Mr. Kovanes again listed Mr. Ollivierre as a reference. However, he provided Mr. Ollivierre as a reference from "Silvergate, Miami Office." In his resume, Mr. Kovanes claimed he worked for Silvergate Inc., in Miami, from 2013 to 2022.

Mr. Kovanes was actually incarcerated during almost the entire time period coinciding with the prior employment information and reference provided by Mr. Ollivierre to both the Seaport and DTPW.

The OIG learned that Mr. Ollivierre himself was incarcerated in the same facility as Mr. Kovanes; they were both at Moore Haven Correctional Facility from 2009 to 2014. Mr. Ollivierre was incarcerated at the facility from November 16, 2009, until November 21, 2014, almost the entire period he reported to the County that he supervised Mr. Kovanes.

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Despite several attempts to interview Mr. Ollivierre regarding Mr. Kovanes' work history, he refused to discuss the issue with the OIG.

On September 5, 2022, Mr. Kovanes transferred to DTPW from his entry-level, part-time Seaport Passenger Safety Officer position. As a Passenger Safety Officer, Mr. Kovanes was responsible for directing and assisting passengers and others at the port to their appropriate destinations. The OIG learned that Mr. Kovanes' position as an AO3 in DTPW required "two years of professional administrative experience in contract administration, contract development, or Request for Proposal development and processing..." Mr. Kovanes was responsible for assisting the Contract and Purchasing Services Manager. His job responsibilities entailed procurement and contract management for goods and services utilized for Bus, Metrorail, Metromover, and Facilities operations.

On the application for his AO3 position with DTPW (Exhibit 4), Mr. Kovanes listed the following information for his job references:

- *Chuck Forest, a Principal for Silvergate Development, phone number (619) 720-3350*
- *James Ollivierre, Finance Controller for Silvergate, phone number (561) 724-0498*

On an accompanying resume, Mr. Kovanes listed the following information under work experience:

- *From 2009 to 2013 - Educational/Training Regional Coordinator with Reeves Dev.*
- *From 2013 to January 2022 - Project Manager/Executive Assistant to Principal with Silvergate Corp.*

While the dates from 2009 to 2013 remain consistent, Mr. Kovanes represented to DTPW that he was employed during that time frame by Reeves Development. The dates of his supposed employment with Silvergate are also inconsistent with his initial application to the Seaport, wherein he stated he had left Silvergate by August 31, 2021.

The OIG subsequently obtained and reviewed fifteen applications Mr. Kovanes provided to the County for various positions, seven of which were for management positions at various County departments. Mr. Kovanes listed employment at Silvergate from 2013 through 2022 on thirteen of the fifteen applications. On two of the applications, Mr. Kovanes did not list any work experience.

Mr. Kovanes provided a sworn statement to the OIG that Reeves Development and Silvergate employed him during his incarceration, but he was never paid. Instead, he was allegedly assured employment upon his release from prison. Mr. Kovanes claimed he

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worked remotely for Reeves Development from 2009 through 2013 while incarcerated at the Moore Haven Correctional Facility. He claimed to complete and mail packets of paperwork while in prison on behalf of the company and claimed it as his employment despite reportedly receiving no compensation. He made similar claims for his alleged employment with Silvergate from 2013 through 2022, although he remained incarcerated until December 2019.

Mr. Kovanes said he began paid employment with Silvergate upon his release from prison.<sup>2</sup> He claimed he left Silvergate sometime in January or February of 2022. Mr. Kovanes claimed Silvergate is based in San Diego, and he identified Chuck Forest as his supervisor, who resides in San Diego. The OIG made several attempts to contact Mr. Forest at the number provided by Mr. Kovanes, leaving him several voicemails, but never received a response.

There is no record of a San Diego-based company named Silvergate registered as a domestic or foreign corporation with the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations that was actively doing business during the various periods provided by Mr. Kovanes, as required to conduct business legally.

As part of the OIG investigation, the OIG determined that upon his release from prison, Mr. Kovanes became employed by East Coast Rigging and Scaffolding of Florida (East Coast Rigging). He worked for East Coast Rigging from June 22, 2020, through March 8, 2021.

The OIG obtained his employment application dated June 22, 2020 (Exhibit 5). On his application for East Coast Rigging, Mr. Kovanes claimed he worked for Silvergate Inc. in Miami from 2019 to 2020 and was laid off because of COVID-19. For additional work experience, Mr. Kovanes claimed to have been employed by the State of Florida in Tallahassee as a wastewater operator from 2016 to 2019 and listed the reason for leaving as “moved.” Mr. Kovanes also listed employment at a company called GEO Inc.,<sup>3</sup> in Boca Raton from 2010 to 2016. These entries directly contradict the information he provided the County on his application for the Seaport position and his transfer application to DTPW. His purported employment with the State of Florida and GEO Inc. is demonstrably false, given his incarceration during that time period. Table 1 below summarizes the discrepancies in the employment information provided by Mr. Kovanes, his references, and the OIG’s findings.

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<sup>2</sup> During his statement, Mr. Kovanes admitted he never informed the County that he was on probation, which is a standard condition of his supervision.

<sup>3</sup> According to a 2009 Florida Sun Sentinel article, citing Kovanes’ arrest warrant, GEO Inc. was the name of the shell company he established to unlawfully bill and collect money from the Town of Davie while serving as the Town’s Administrator.

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**Table 1 – Summary of Mr. Kovanes’ Employment Information and References**

<b>Information Provided to Seaport</b>	<b>By Mr. Kovanes Employed/Reference</b>	<b>By Mr. Forest Verified Employed at</b>	<b>By Mr. Ollivierre Verified Employed at</b>	<b>Confirmed by OIG</b>
2009	Reeves Dev./Ollivierre		Consolidated Asset*	Prison
2010	Reeves Dev./Ollivierre	Silvergate	Consolidated Asset	Prison
2011	Reeves Dev./Ollivierre	Silvergate	Consolidated Asset	Prison
2012	Reeves Dev./Ollivierre	Silvergate	Consolidated Asset	Prison
2013	Reeves Dev./Ollivierre Silvergate/ Forest	Silvergate	Consolidated Asset	Prison
2014-2019	Silvergate/ Forest	Silvergate		Prison
2020	Silvergate/ Forest	Silvergate		East Coast Rigging
2021	Silvergate/ Forest	Silvergate		East Coast Rigging
2022		Silvergate		
<b>Information Provided to DTPW</b>	<b>By Mr. Kovanes Employed/Reference</b>	<b>By Mr. Forest</b>	<b>By Mr. Ollivierre</b>	<b>Confirmed by OIG</b>
2009 – 2013	Reeves Dev.	Not contacted	Not contacted	Prison
2013 – 2019	Silvergate/ Forest & Ollivierre	Not contacted	Not contacted	Prison
2020	Silvergate/ Chuck & Ollivierre	Not contacted	Not contacted	East Coast Rigging
2021	Silvergate/ Chuck & Ollivierre	Not contacted	Not contacted	East Coast Rigging
2022	Silvergate/ Chuck & Ollivierre	Not contacted	Not contacted	
<b>Information Provided to East Coast Rigging</b>	<b>By Mr. Kovanes Employed</b>			<b>Confirmed by OIG</b>
2010-2016	GEO, Inc.			Prison
2016-2019	State of Florida Wastewater Operator			Prison
2019-2020	Silvergate			Prison until Dec. 2019

\*Mr. Ollivierre was incarcerated from 2009 to 2014, during the dates he claimed to have supervised Mr. Kovanes at Consolidated Asset, a company not incorporated until February 2020.

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**Finding 2: Christopher Kovanes failed to request permission to engage in outside employment and to file outside employment statements.**

Mr. Kovanes failed to comply with established procedures for requesting and reporting outside employment. County employees wishing to engage in outside employment are required to obtain their department director's permission prior to engaging in outside employment. A requesting employee must identify the proposed employer, the location, the responsibilities of the outside employment, and a proposed work schedule, including an estimate of the total hours to be worked each week. Written approval by the department director must be granted before the employee can engage in outside employment. Requests must be renewed annually. County employees who engage in outside employment are also required to submit annually to the Department of Elections an *Outside Employment Statement*, indicating the sources and amounts of income generated from the outside employment.

The OIG learned that Mr. Kovanes, while employed at the Seaport, was also employed by the City of Miami as a part-time lifeguard.<sup>4</sup> In his sworn statement to the OIG, Mr. Kovanes initially denied this employment but later admitted that he had been working for the City of Miami and had never filed any income statements.

The OIG reviewed County records and found that Mr. Kovanes had not obtained the appropriate annual approvals to engage in outside employment activities, and never filed the required annual *Outside Employment Statements*.

In addition, as noted earlier, Mr. Kovanes incorporated a company called Consolidated Asset Management Unlimited Inc. The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE) has issued guidance stating that a business owned by an employee, whether the business is generating income or not, is considered outside employment.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Kovanes registered Consolidated Asset Management Unlimited Inc. in February 2020. Per the State of Florida Division of Corporation records, Mr. Kovanes is the registered agent and President.

Mr. Kovanes again initially denied any knowledge of Consolidated Asset Management Unlimited. Subsequently, Mr. Kovanes acknowledged that he had indeed opened the company, and that he never requested permission to engage in outside employment with either County department.

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<sup>4</sup> As of December 5, 2023, Mr. Kovanes was still employed by the City of Miami in this capacity.

<sup>5</sup> See COE INQ 13-34.

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**Finding 3: The County lacks formal policies and procedures for reviewing the potential impact of an employee’s criminal history during promotions or lateral transfers.**

The OIG interviewed the County’s Division Director of Recruitment, Testing, and Career Development (HR Recruitment Division Director), who detailed the County’s new hire process. The Division Director stated that when a County department recruits new hires, the selected candidate is fingerprinted, and those prints are forwarded to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a level 2 background screening. Once Human Resources receives a report, they provide it to the department hiring the position. Each department has designated Department Personnel Representatives (DPRs) who are authorized to review the level 2 background screening report.

According to the HR Recruitment Division Director, the DPR reviews the background report, along with the applicant’s work history, with a focus on any convictions. If an applicant has a criminal history, it is to be reviewed to determine whether there is a nexus between the job position and the crime. If there is a nexus, then the department provides the applicant with a “pre-rejection” letter citing the hiring department’s concerns and why there may be a potential withdrawal of the job offer. At that point, the applicant may provide additional information, explain extenuating circumstances, or provide additional references for the hiring department to consider. The hiring department then determines whether to withdraw the job offer. If the hiring department withdraws the job offer, the applicant is provided with a final rejection letter. While favorable consideration is extended to applicants who have convictions that occurred over seven years ago or to applicants whose offense(s) have no nexus to the position they’ve applied for, the director of the hiring department makes the final determination on whether to hire an applicant with a criminal history.

Occasionally, hiring departments request the professional opinion of Human Resources. Human Resources assists, but the final determination remains with the hiring department. The OIG also learned that although Human Resources aids departments upon request, it does not provide any formal training to departments on reading and interpreting criminal histories but if a hiring department employee has difficulty reading a criminal history, they may contact Human Resources’ Human Rights & Fair Employment Practices section. Departments do not request this type of assistance often, but it does occur.

The HR Recruitment Division Director noted that DPRs received certification training a few years ago, which enforced that hiring departments are responsible for verifying applicants’ work experience. AO 7-21 specifically provides that the hiring department is responsible for “...evaluating the authenticity of all required employment documents and employment claims made with regard to the applicant selected for employment *as it deems necessary.*” (Emphasis added)

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The HR Recruitment Division Director stated that Human Resources also implemented the pre-employment checklist, which, when completed, is an attestation by the hiring department, stating that they have reviewed all the applicant's information and determined they are qualified and eligible for the position. The County also distributed a policy memorandum when the pre-employment checklist was instituted.

The HR Recruitment Division Director also detailed the County's employee transfer process. Each department's DPR can send or receive the personnel file to any other department considering the transfer of an existing employee. Any criminal history for existing employees is made available to the requesting department. The HR Recruitment Division Director noted that the County's Finance Department is the most likely department to review an employee's criminal background prior to transfer.

The HR Recruitment Division Director opined that Mr. Kovanes' conviction has a direct nexus to his current position. Specifically, the criminal charges involved government contracts and his position within DTPW involved requests for proposals and contracts.

The HR Recruitment Division Director noted that there is no codified procedure for performing a criminal background check every time a County employee makes a lateral transfer, and Human Resources has no authority to conduct one after a hire. The exceptions are Miami-Dade's Police, Fire, and Corrections departments.

OIG Special Agents interviewed the Seaport's Human Resources (HR) Manager regarding Mr. Kovanes' hiring. The Seaport's HR Manager identified Mr. Kovanes as a part-time Seaport Passenger Safety Officer and recalled meeting him. The Seaport's HR Manager said that when she requested Mr. Kovanes provide references, he provided the names of two people who were either a previous supervisor or a coworker. The Seaport's HR Manager telephoned the references and followed the format on the reference check form. She explained that she did not have the applicant's application or resume at her disposal and was not calling to verify his employment, but to satisfy the reference requirement. As a result, some of the discrepancies, such as the dates and companies reported by Mr. Kovanes, were not identified and addressed prior to his employment. The Seaport's HR Manager also verified that Mr. Kovanes never mentioned his incarceration or probationary status.

The Seaport's HR Manager recalled reviewing Mr. Kovanes' criminal background check and that he served prison time for what she recalled as embezzlement. (Exhibit 6—Mr. Kovanes' Criminal Background Check) The Seaport's HR Manager did not recall the notation that Mr. Kovanes was sentenced to 10 years' probation. Mr. Kovanes' criminal background check was routed for review and approval at the Seaport; included in the comments is a notation "last offense over 12 years." She recalled highlighting his felony

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arrest and meeting with her supervisor to discuss the fact that there appeared to be no nexus between Mr. Kovanes' arrest and the position he was seeking.

The Seaport's HR Manager explained that the only information provided when an employee transfers to another department is the employee's release date from the department they are leaving and any reference questions they may require.

The OIG also interviewed DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist regarding the applicant background process for DTPW employees, particularly Mr. Kovanes. DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist explained that since Mr. Kovanes was a Safety Officer at the Seaport, the AO3 position at DTPW would be considered a promotion. DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist verified that Mr. Kovanes met the minimum requirements for the AO3 position, which required either a college degree or three years of administrative work experience. Human Resources approved Mr. Kovanes' paperwork and deemed him eligible for the AO3 position. DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist then contacted the Seaport's HR Manager to obtain a release date for Mr. Kovanes and sent Mr. Kovanes a promotion offer letter, which he signed, enabling Mr. Kovanes to transfer from the Seaport to DTPW.

DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist recalled the administrative experience that Mr. Kovanes listed on his application for the AO3 position. Mr. Kovanes listed he was a training coordinator for Reeves Development from January 10, 2009, through May 27, 2013; a project manager at Silvergate Corporation from June 22, 2013, through August 31, 2021; and a safety officer at the Seaport from March 14, 2022, to the present. DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist stated that it was his belief that Human Resources is tasked with verifying the information submitted by applicants as opposed to the hiring department.

DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist said DTPW did not know Mr. Kovanes' criminal history and had no way of knowing unless someone from Human Resources informed DTPW. According to DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist, the chief of a division or hiring manager of a County department may request the background check, evaluations, and other personnel documents of an existing County employee looking to transfer to their department. However, DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist was not aware of this occurring.

DTPW's Senior Personnel Specialist stated that if his department had known of Mr. Kovanes' probation status, he would not have been hired by DTPW until his probationary period had terminated, even for an entry-level position.

The OIG contacted Florida DOC regarding Mr. Kovanes' probationary status. Mr. Kovanes was required to inform the Florida DOC of his address within twenty-four hours of his release from State custody. Florida DOC had no knowledge of Mr. Kovanes' Miami

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address. Further, Florida DOC advised that Mr. Kovanes listed his employment as a “homemaker” from March 2021 through December 2023. At the time of contact with the OIG, Mr. Kovanes had not updated his employment and Florida DOC had no knowledge of his employment with the County.

**V. RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT REPORT**

The Directors of the Department of Transportation and Public Works and Seaport, and Christopher Kovanes, were provided with a copy of the draft report for their independent review and an opportunity to submit a discretionary written response.

The OIG received a response from the Seaport, it is attached to this report in its entirety as Appendix A. The Seaport acknowledged that Mr. Kovanes would not have been hired had the Seaport “discovered the falsification of the information provided.” Although the OIG’s recommendations are addressed to the County and its Human Resources Department to be implemented countywide, the Seaport’s response indicated it will implement several changes to its hiring practices in line with the OIG’s recommendations.

DTPW provided an email in which it indicates that Mr. Kovanes was issued a Disciplinary Action Report for falsifying his employment application, and “subsequently terminated from County services on May 13, 2024.” DTPW’s response is also attached in its entirety, as Appendix B. DTPW does not address whether or not it plans to implement any changes when reviewing or vetting applicants.

Mr. Kovanes did not provide a response to the draft report.

**VI. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The OIG investigation found that Mr. Kovanes provided false employment information to the Seaport and to DTPW. In addition, Mr. Kovanes’ criminal history has a direct nexus with the position he held as an AO3 at DTPW. While Mr. Kovanes initially began his county tenure at an entry-level position with no direct nexus, he applied for several positions, including his current position as an AO3, where he would potentially gain access to procurement and financial information, which has a direct correlation to his criminal history.

It was further determined that Mr. Kovanes failed to make a request for his outside employment in violation of County Code Section 2-11, *Outside employment by County employees*. He also failed to inform the County of the existence of his corporation.

Mr. Kovanes’ criminal history may not have been a reason to deny him the entry-level position at the Seaport, however his falsified employment history should have disqualified him. The OIG is cognizant that AO 7-21 requires a department to verify employment “as

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it deems necessary.” Given the entry-level status and nature of the Seaport Passenger Safety Officer position, Mr. Kovanes’ purported employment history may have been deemed sufficient for the Seaport. However, Seaport personnel did not compare Mr. Kovanes’ employment application with his criminal history or dates of employment provided by the references. It would have been apparent that Mr. Kovanes was in prison at the time he claimed to be employed and the discrepancy between his listed employer and his reference, Mr. Ollivierre, would have also been discovered. Finally, Seaport personnel correctly identified that Mr. Kovanes’ criminal conviction was over 12 years old, but missed that Mr. Kovanes is actually on probation for that conviction.

Mr. Kovanes’ criminal history and probationary status notwithstanding, he benefited from a lack of cross-referencing and verification of his falsified employment application and sham references.

Mr. Kovanes also benefited from a lack of scrutiny of his employment record and failure to review his criminal history upon department transfer. Relying on the initial hiring process, DTPW verified that the required experience was contained in the application but did not contact the references or compare the DTPW application to the original. The OIG recognizes this is not the County’s practice and is not required. However, had DTPW done so, it would have identified the discrepancies and been able to determine the false employment history. While the Seaport was not hiring Mr. Kovanes for a position of fiduciary trust, DTPW was certainly doing so, and should have scrutinized his file.

As the OIG learned, an employee’s criminal background results are generally not provided, unless requested, to subsequent departments when considering transfers. There is also no formal process to ensure that any criminal history obtained during the initial hiring is reviewed for any potential conflict with the new position being sought by the employee. These lapses in the process allowed Mr. Kovanes, who is still serving his sentence for abusing his public office, to be in a position of financial responsibility acquiring goods and services.

Based on the investigation, the OIG makes the following recommendations:

1. The County and/or Human Resources should require County departments that are transferring employees from another county department to review the candidate’s criminal history for evaluation consistent with County Code Section 2-31.
2. The County and/or Human Resources should develop guidelines or best practices specific to departmental transfers of personnel. This case highlights that the initial vetting of a County employee, due to the nature of the position sought, might meet County standards yet be insufficient to ensure the employee’s qualifications meet any transferring departments’ requirements.

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3. Human Resources should provide training to all County-designated DPRs authorized to obtain and view criminal histories to assist them in interpreting any criminal history findings. Additional guidance is available through the [Florida Department of Law Enforcement](#). DPRs should also be given periodic and refresher training on reviewing applications and vetting information, specifically cross-referencing information, and contacting previous employers and references.

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**This investigation was conducted in accordance with the *Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General* as promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.**

# Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General



## EXHIBIT #1

*Florida Department of Corrections Records of Christopher Kovanes*

(8 pages)

Report of Investigation  
IG23-0014-I



FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT of  
CORRECTIONS

Governor  
**RON DESANTIS**  
Secretary  
**RICKY D. DIXON**

501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500

<http://www.dc.state.fl.us>

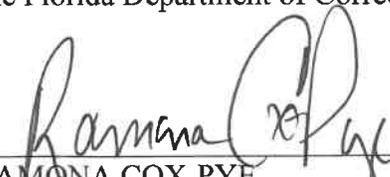
**CERTIFICATION OF RECORDS**

I, Ramona Cox-Pye, hereby certify that I am a custodian of records of the Florida Department of Corrections, located at 501 S. Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500. Pursuant to sections 90.803(6), 90.803(8), and 90.902(11), Florida Statutes, I hereby certify the following:

- a) that as part of my regular duties I maintain custody and control of the official records of the Florida Department of Corrections,
- b) that the attached DC14 computer data record of **CHRISTOPHER KOVANES**, DC No. **B07690** consisting of **7** pages reflects entries of information that were made at or near the time of the occurrence of the matters set forth by, or from information transmitted by, a person having knowledge of those matters,
- c) that it is the regular practice of the Florida Department of Corrections to make, keep, and maintain the attached computer data during the course of regularly conducted business,
- d) and that the attached computer data record is a true and correct copy of the original record contained in the official records of the Florida Department of Corrections maintained pursuant to Section 945.25.

Pursuant to Section 92.525, Florida Statutes, I state under the penalties of perjury that I have read the foregoing certification and the facts stated in it are true.

Given under my hand and the official seal of the Florida Department of Corrections, this  
14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RAMONA COX-PYE,  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES  
ASSISTANT CONSULTANT

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

SEAL



**SANDRA GURLEY**  
Commission # HH 096795  
Expires February 24, 2025  
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

XXXX 4 B07690 USER ID: XXXXXXXX
NAME: KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J. DOC NO: B07690 STATUS: INACTIVE

OVERALL INMATE RECORD AS OF 12/14/23 TIME: 10:59

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FROM THE RECORD OF THE INMATE NAMED ABOVE.
SOME DATA AS WELL AS RELEASE DATE(S) ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH THE
AWARD OF AND/OR FORFEITURE OF GAIN TIME OR PROVISIONAL CREDITS OR WITH
A CHANGE IN SENTENCE STRUCTURE OR INMATE STATUS.

LOCATION: PROVISIONAL RELEASE DATE: NO CREDITS
OVERALL TERM: 12 YRS 0MOS 0DAYS TENTATIVE RELEASE DATE: 12/18/2019
CUSTODY GR: MINIMUM SINCE: 10/21/09 LAST PROV.AWARD: 0 DAYS ON / /
DATE OF BIRTH: 05/07/71 SEX: MALE LAST GAIN TIME: 0 DAYS ON 11/30/19
BIRTHPLACE: OHIO HT: RACE: WHITE EYES: BROWN
SOC.SEC.NO.: FBI NO: FDLE:

FILE IMAGING: COMPLETE RECORD IMAGED

THE FOLLOWING DATES ARE SET BY THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW.
QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE DATES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THAT AGENCY AT (850)488-1655.
CONTROL RELEASE DATE: / / PRESUMPTIVE PAROLE DATE: 99/99/9999

INMATE SENTENCES AS OF 12/14/23 TIME: 10:59

THE PRIOR INMATE RECORD REFLECTS THE DATE THE OFFENDER WAS RELEASED.
EXTERNAL MOVEMENTS WILL REFLECT THE TYPE OF RELEASE.
THE CURRENT INMATE RECORD IS COMPRISED OF CONCURRENT AND/OR CONSECUTIVE
SENTENCES WHICH ARE COMBINED TO ESTABLISH THE OVERALL TERM.

Table with columns: IMPOSED, COUNTY, CASE NO., OFFENSE, YRS MO DY, RELEASED. Contains 4 rows of inmate sentencing data.

85% MINIMUM RELEASE DATE: 12/18/2019  
 10/13/09 BROWARD 06-0914098 ORG.FRAUD-\$50K OR MO 12 0 0 12/18/19  
 SPEC.PROV.: PAROLE INEL  
 SENTENCING GUIDELINES OFFENSE LEVEL: 06  
 85% MINIMUM RELEASE DATE: 12/18/2019  
 10/13/09 BROWARD 06-0914098 \$LAUNDER>20K<100K 12 0 0 12/18/19  
 SPEC.PROV.: PAROLE INEL  
 SENTENCING GUIDELINES OFFENSE LEVEL: 08  
 85% MINIMUM RELEASE DATE: 12/18/2019

\*\*-----\*\*  
 INMATE DETAINERS AS OF 12/14/23 TIME: 10:59  
 \*-----\*

THE FOLLOWING REFLECTS DETAINERS AGAINST THIS RECORD, AND/OR REQUESTS TO BE NOTIFIED PRIOR TO RELEASE OF THE INMATE.

FILED	TYPE	---	LATEST	INCARCERATION	---	REMOVED
-----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
10/13/09	NOTIFY	17-0	12 YEARS	FSP	F/B 10 YRS PROBATION	12/18/19

\*\*-----\*\*  
 INMATE MOVEMENT/TRANSFER HISTORY AS OF 12/14/23 TIME: 10:59  
 \*-----\*

THE FOLLOWING ENTRIES REFLECT MOVEMENT BY THE INMATE BETWEEN DEPARTMENT FACILITIES AS WELL AS RELEASES AND RETURNS FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES.

DATE	MOVEMENT TYPE	---	LATEST	INCARCERATION	---	FROM
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
10/20/09	NEW COMMITMENT		S.F.R.C.		BROWARD	
11/16/09	TRANSFERRED TO		MOORE HAVEN C.F.		S.F.R.C.	
11/26/10	OUT TO COURT		GLADES		MOORE HAVEN C.F.	
02/03/11	RET.FM.CRT.NO N/S		MOORE HAVEN C.F.		GLADES	
05/18/16	TRANSFERRED TO		S.F.R.C SOUTH UNIT		MOORE HAVEN C.F.	
01/31/17	RECEIVED AT				S.F.R.C SOUTH UNIT	
03/14/17	TRANSFERRED TO		S.F.R.C.			
03/20/17	TRANSFERRED TO		S.F.R.C SOUTH UNIT		S.F.R.C.	
04/06/17	TRANSFERRED TO		TAYLOR C.I.		S.F.R.C SOUTH UNIT	
04/06/17	IN TRANSIT AT		R.M.C.- WEST UNIT		S.F.R.C.	
04/10/17	TRANSFERRED TO		TAYLOR C.I.		R.M.C.- WEST UNIT	
04/20/17	TRANSFERRED TO		TAYLOR WORK CAMP		TAYLOR C.I.	
09/09/17	TRANSFERRED TO		TAYLOR C.I.		TAYLOR WORK CAMP	
09/11/17	TRANSFERRED TO		TAYLOR WORK CAMP		TAYLOR C.I.	
02/05/18	TRANSFERRED TO		TAYLOR C.I.		TAYLOR WORK CAMP	
02/05/18	TRANSFERRED TO		LANCASTER C.I.		TAYLOR C.I.	
02/05/18	IN TRANSIT AT		R.M.C.- WEST UNIT		TAYLOR C.I.	
02/12/18	TRANSFERRED TO		LANCASTER C.I.		R.M.C.- WEST UNIT	
02/13/18	TRANSFERRED TO		LANCASTER W.C.		LANCASTER C.I.	
07/17/18	TRANSFERRED TO		LANCASTER C.I.		LANCASTER W.C.	



\*\*-----\*\*  
 OFFENDER NAMES AS OF 12/14/23                      TIME: 10:59  
 \*-----\*

THE FOLLOWING ENTRIES REFLECT ALL NAMES BY WHICH THE OFFENDER IS KNOWN.

TYPE	NAME
TRUE	KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J.
COMMIT.	KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER
ALIAS	KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J.
ALIAS	KOVARES, CHRISTOPHER J.
ALIAS	KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER
FDLE NM	KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J.

\*\*-----\*\*  
 GAIN TIME (GT) & PROVISIONAL CREDITS (PC) AS OF 12/14/23                      TIME: 10:59  
 \*-----\*

THE FOLLOWING ENTRIES REFLECT ONLY THAT GT AND PC WHICH HAS BEEN USED TO COMPUTE THE INMATE'S OVERALL RELEASE DATE. NOT SHOWN IS GT AND PC PREVIOUSLY EARNED THAT DOES NOT AFFECT THE RELEASE DATES DUE TO MANDATORY TERMS, OTHER SENTENCING PROVISIONS, REVOCATIONS, OR ESCAPE CONVICTIONS.

AWARDED	TYPE	DAYS	LATEST INCARCERATION		
			AWARDED	TYPE	DAYS
10/31/09	STP GT	6			
11/30/09	STP GT	10			
12/31/09	STP GT	10			
01/31/10	STP GT	10			
02/28/10	STP GT	10			
03/31/10	STP GT	10			
04/30/10	STP GT	10			
05/31/10	STP GT	10			
06/30/10	STP GT	10			
07/31/10	STP GT	10			
08/31/10	STP GT	10			
09/30/10	STP GT	10			
10/31/10	STP GT	10			
11/30/10	STP GT	10			
12/31/10	STP GT	4			
01/31/11	STP GT	4			
02/28/11	STP GT	10			
03/31/11	STP GT	10			
04/30/11	STP GT	10			
05/31/11	STP GT	10			
06/30/11	STP GT	10			
07/31/11	STP GT	10			
08/31/11	STP GT	10			
09/30/11	STP GT	10			
10/31/11	STP GT	10			

11/30/11	STP GT	10
12/31/11	STP GT	8
01/31/12	STP GT	10
02/28/12	STP GT	10
03/31/12	STP GT	10
04/30/12	STP GT	10
05/31/12	STP GT	10
06/30/12	STP GT	10
07/31/12	STP GT	10
08/31/12	STP GT	10
09/30/12	STP GT	10
10/31/12	STP GT	10
11/30/12	STP GT	10
12/31/12	STP GT	10
01/31/13	STP GT	10
02/28/13	STP GT	10
03/31/13	STP GT	10
04/30/13	STP GT	10
05/31/13	STP GT	10
06/30/13	STP GT	10
07/31/13	STP GT	10
08/31/13	STP GT	10
09/30/13	STP GT	10
10/31/13	STP GT	10
11/30/13	STP GT	10
12/31/13	STP GT	10
01/31/14	STP GT	10
02/28/14	STP GT	10
03/31/14	STP GT	10
04/30/14	STP GT	10
05/31/14	STP GT	10
06/30/14	STP GT	10
07/31/14	STP GT	10
08/31/14	STP GT	10
09/30/14	STP GT	10
10/31/14	STP GT	10
11/30/14	STP GT	10
12/31/14	STP GT	10
01/31/15	STP GT	10
02/28/15	STP GT	10
03/31/15	STP GT	10
04/30/15	STP GT	10
05/31/15	STP GT	5
04/30/16	STP GT	10
05/31/16	STP GT	10
06/30/16	STP GT	10
07/31/16	STP GT	10
08/31/16	STP GT	10
09/30/16	STP GT	10
09/30/18	STP GT	10
10/31/18	STP GT	10
11/30/18	STP GT	10
12/31/18	STP GT	10
01/31/19	STP GT	10



02/17/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-ADMI	CONFINEMENT-ADMI
03/07/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-ADMI	CONFINEMENT-ADMI
03/15/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-ADMI	CONFINEMENT-ADMI
03/15/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-ADMI	CONFINEMENT-ADMI
03/22/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-ADMI	CONFINEMENT-ADMI
03/23/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-DISC	CONFINEMENT-DISC
03/28/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-DISC	CONFINEMENT-DISC
03/29/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-DISC	CONFINEMENT-DISC
04/13/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	HOUSEMAN	HOUSEMAN
04/17/2016	MOORE HAVEN C.F.	XXXXXX	HOUSEMAN	HOUSEMAN
05/18/2016	S.F.R.C SOUTH UNIT	XXXXXX		
01/31/2017		XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED	UNASSIGNED
01/31/2017		XXXXXX	REENTRY	REENTRY
03/07/2017		XXXXXX	REENTRY	ORDERLY-EDUCATIO
03/14/2017	S.F.R.C.	XXXXXX	IN-TRANSIT	IN-TRANSIT
03/15/2017	S.F.R.C.	XXXXXX	IN-TRANSIT	IN-TRANSIT
03/16/2017	S.F.R.C.	XXXXXX	IN-TRANSIT	IN-TRANSIT
03/20/2017	S.F.R.C SOUTH UNIT	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED-OPEN	UNASSIGNED-OPEN
03/21/2017	S.F.R.C SOUTH UNIT	XXXXXX	CONTRACT WORK SQ	CONTRACT WORK SQ
04/06/2017	R.M.C.- WEST UNIT	XXXXXX	IN-TRANSIT	IN-TRANSIT
04/10/2017	TAYLOR C.I.	XXXXXX	RECEPTION/ORIENT	RECEPTION/ORIENT
04/12/2017	TAYLOR C.I.	XXXXXX	INSIDE GROUNDS	INSIDE GROUNDS
04/19/2017	TAYLOR C.I.	XXXXXX	ORDERLY-CONFINEM	ORDERLY-CONFINEM
04/20/2017	TAYLOR WORK CAMP	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED	UNASSIGNED
04/20/2017	TAYLOR WORK CAMP	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED	UNASSIGNED
04/21/2017	TAYLOR WORK CAMP	XXXXXX	INSIDE GROUNDS	INSIDE GROUNDS
04/28/2017	TAYLOR WORK CAMP	XXXXXX	WATER/WASTEWATER	WATER/WASTEWATER
09/09/2017	TAYLOR C.I.	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED	UNASSIGNED
09/11/2017	TAYLOR WORK CAMP	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED	UNASSIGNED
09/11/2017	TAYLOR WORK CAMP	XXXXXX	WATER/WASTEWATER	WATER/WASTEWATER
02/02/2018	TAYLOR WORK CAMP	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED-OPEN	UNASSIGNED-OPEN
02/05/2018	R.M.C.- WEST UNIT	XXXXXX	IN-TRANSIT	IN-TRANSIT
02/12/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	RECEPTION/ORIENT	RECEPTION/ORIENT
02/12/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	RECEPTION/ORIENT	RECEPTION/ORIENT
02/13/2018	LANCASTER W.C.	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED-OPEN	UNASSIGNED-OPEN
02/16/2018	LANCASTER W.C.	XXXXXX	WATER/WASTEWATER	WATER/WASTEWATER
03/10/2018	LANCASTER W.C.	XXXXXX	WATER/WASTEWATER	WATER/WASTEWATER
07/17/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	CONFINEMENT-ADMI	CONFINEMENT-ADMI
08/14/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED-OPEN	UNASSIGNED-OPEN
08/17/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	LABORER-FOOD SER	LABORER-FOOD SER
08/17/2018	LANCASTER W.C.	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED-OPEN	UNASSIGNED-OPEN
08/24/2018	LANCASTER W.C.	XXXXXX	PUBLIC WORKS-DC	PUBLIC WORKS-DC
08/27/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED-OPEN	UNASSIGNED-OPEN
08/27/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	UNASSIGNED-OPEN	UNASSIGNED-OPEN
08/29/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	MARINE SERVICE T	MARINE SERVICE T
09/20/2018	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	MARINE SERVICE T	MARINE SERVICE T
08/01/2019	LANCASTER C.I.	XXXXXX	MARINE SERVICE T	MARINE SERVICE T

# Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General



## EXHIBIT #2

*Christopher Kovanes' Candidate Resume for Seaport Passenger Safety Officer*

(2 pages)

Report of Investigation  
IG23-0014-I

## Candidate Resume - All Applicants

**KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER**

Applicant/Person ID: **814983**

9660 W Bay Harbor Drive, 2D  
Bay Harbor Isls, FL 33154  
(310) 428-4763  
christopher.kovanes@gmail.com

Drivers License Type: **Class E license**

### Veterans' Preference Information -- None Indicated

### Education

<u>Major</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Graduated</u>	<u>Graduate Date</u>
Public Administration	Master degree	Nova Southeastern University	Y	06/12/1999
Public Relations	Bachelor of Arts		Y	05/19/1997

### Work Experience

06/22/2013    08/31/2021    Project Manager    Silvergate Corporation

Assisted management to rapidly develop project plans to develop mixed-use development; developed and maintained, and project management plans and schedules; hired, supervised and trained staff; managed procurement procedures; developed strong expertise in applying flexible change to product deliverables; assisted with the coordination of training and communications throughout company and other companies associated on project; monitored change control process, project documentation, delivery of heavy equipment and product(s) within budget constraints. Commercial builds along with wastewater and drinking water applications.

Reason for leaving: company was moving from state to state and I need to remain in Miami due to older parents who need assistance.

01/10/2009    05/27/2013    Coordinator    Reeves Development

Trained in the areas of: OSHA, NCCER (National Center of Construction Educational Resources) and heavy equipment; met all state testing compliance requirements; created capital/operational annual budgets; implemented Pearsons testing center; interfaced with multiple state agencies.

### Training -- None Indicated

### Licenses & Certificates -- None Indicated

### Additional Language Proficiency

<u>Title</u>	<u>Speaking Prof.</u>	<u>Reading Prof.</u>	<u>Writing Prof.</u>
English	High	High	High

### Memberships

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Mandate</u>	<u>Mandate Position</u>
-------------------	-------------------	----------------	-------------------------

American Water Works Assoc  
FL Stormwater Association  
Construction Specifications In

### Honors & Awards

<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Granted By</u>
12/28/2020	Employee of the Month	Owner of Company

### Driver License History -- None Indicated

Job Opening: 63926  
Description: Seaport Passenger Safety Officer  
Job Code: 001323  
Generated: 02/15/2022

Candidate Resume - All Applicants

KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER

Applicant/Person ID: 814983

**Former Miami-Dade County Gov Employee**

Department                      Start Date                      End Date

DEPARTMENT

**Relationships at MDC -- None Indicated**

**Competencies -- None Indicated**

Employment offers are contingent upon a pre-employment physical that includes alcohol and drug use screens, and a fingerprint-based national criminal background check. By submitting your application you also indicate understanding and acceptance of the facts that: (1) if you are employed, your consent to the release of information remains in effect during your employment; (2) except where specific information is exempted by state law, your application and related information are public record and (3) continued employment of males between the ages of 18 and 25 is also contingent upon proof of registration with the Federal Selective Service. Submitting an application indicates that, if offered employment with Miami-Dade County, you accept these terms and you understand that if there is any misrepresentation of material fact, omission, falsification of documents or if any other information makes you unsuitable for county employment, you may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, regardless of the length of your tenure with Miami-Dade County. I understand that as a Miami-Dade County employee, it will be my responsibility to provide disaster assistance during times of emergency in any capacity deemed appropriate by the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Department - Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. You must agree to the terms of the application to SUBMIT your application.

# Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General



## EXHIBIT #3

*Email from Mr. Kovanes to Ms. Timmons dated 2/15/22*

(1 page)

Report of Investigation  
IG23-0014-I

**Timmons, Rose (Seaport)**

---

**From:** Christopher Kovanes <christopher.kovanes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Timmons, Rose (Seaport)  
**Subject:** Pass Safety Officer — Professional Ref — Applicate Chris Kovanes

**EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE**

Thank you for your patience!

Chuck Forest — current supervisor — (619) 720-3350 — is currently in San Diego, CA. *HM 2/16 @ 11:05 a.*

James Ollivierre — past work — (561) 724-0498

Just took try covid test at Miami-Dade College — should have results later today. I'll PDF the results asap back to you.

If you need anything else, please call and I'll get right to it.

Best Regards,  
Chris

# Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General



## EXHIBIT #4

*Mr. Kovanes' Resume and Application for AO3 position with DTPW*

(7 pages)

Report of Investigation  
IG23-0014-I

Confidential Report

Job Opening ID: 72466

Job Posting Title: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 3

**General Information**

**Name** Christopher Kovanes  
**Applicant ID** 917385  
**Applicant Type** Employee  
**Applicant Status** 010 Active

**Contact Information**

**Name Prefix**  
**First Name** Christopher  
**Middle Name** J  
**Last Name** Kovanes  
**Name Suffix**  
**Address** 624 NE 61ST ST  
APT 4  
MIAMI, FL 33137  
**Preferred Contact** Phone

**Phone Numbers**

Phone Type	Telephone	Extension	Country Code	Preferred
Home	310/428-4763			Yes

**Email Addresses**

Email Type	Email Address	Preferred
Business	Christopher.Kovanes@miamidade.gov	Yes
Home	christopher.kovanes@gmail.com	No

**Personal Information**

**POI Type**  
**Eligible to Work in U.S.**  
**Are you a former employee** No  
**Previous Termination Date**

**Preferences**

**Desired Start Date**  
**Regular/Temporary** Either  
**Full/Part-Time** Either  
**Willing to Relocate** No

**Confidential Report**

**Job Opening ID:** 72466

**Job Posting Title:** ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 3

<b>Willing to Travel</b>	No		
<b>Travel Percentage</b>	Never or rarely		
<b>Desired Work Days</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wednesday
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday		
<b>Minimum Pay</b>	0.00 USD		
<b>Desired Shift(s)</b>			
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	40.00		

Geographic Preferences	
<b>First Choice</b>	
<b>Second Choice</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	

Referral Sources
No Referral Sources have been added to this applicant's profile

Work Experience
No Work Experience have been added to this applicant's profile

Education Level
<b>Highest Education Level</b> Masters Level Degree

Training
No Training have been added to this applicant's profile

Degrees
<b>Date Acquired</b> 06/12/1999
<b>Degree</b> Master degree (MAS)
<b>Major Code</b> Public Administration (0000000121)

Honors and Awards
No Honors and Awards have been added to this applicant's profile

Licenses and Certifications
No Licenses and Certifications have been added to this applicant's profile

Confidential Report

Job Opening ID: 72466

Job Posting Title: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 3

**Language Skills**

No Language Skills have been added to this applicant's profile

**Driver License**

No Driver License have been added to this applicant's profile

**Former Miami-Dade County Gov**

No Former Miami-Dade County Gov have been added to this applicant's profile

**Relationship**

No Relationship have been added to this applicant's profile

**Veterans' Preference Request**

No Veterans' Preference Request have been added to this applicant's profile

**Memberships**

No Memberships have been added to this applicant's profile

**References**

Reference	Title	Employer	Phone	Country Code
Chuck Forest	Principal of Silvergate	Silvergate Development	619 7203350	
James Ollivierre	Finance Controller	Silvergate, Miami Office	561 7240498	

**Questionnaire**

**Minimum Qualifications:**

**Skills Question:** Do you possess two years of administrative experience?

Answers		
Possible Answer	Correct Answer	Selected Answer
Yes	✓	
No		

**Skills Question:** Do you have a Bachelor's degree or additional administrative experience in developing, managing, monitoring or analyzing capital funded contracts or construction projects that may substitute for the required college education on a year-for-year basis?

Confidential Report

Job Opening ID: 72466

Job Posting Title: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 3

Answers		
Possible Answer	Correct Answer	Selected Answer
Yes	✓	
No		

**Preference Screening:**

**Skills Question:** Do you possess two years of administrative experience?

Answers		
Possible Answer	Correct Answer	Selected Answer
Yes	✓	
No		

**Skills Question:** Do you have a Bachelor's degree or additional administrative experience in developing, managing, monitoring or analyzing capital funded contracts or construction projects that may substitute for the required college education on a year-for-year basis?

Answers		
Possible Answer	Correct Answer	Selected Answer
Yes	✓	
No		

**Final:**

There are no questions associated with the screening level.

**Pre Screening:**

There are no questions associated with the screening level.

**Online Screening:**

There are no questions associated with the screening level.

# CHRISTOPHER KOVANES

(310) 428-4763 christopher.kovanes@gmail.com

## EXPERTISE

- Employee Management
- Operational Fiscal Mgmt
- Capital Fiscal Planning/Mgmt
- Procurement
- Contract Administration
- Property Management
- Logistics: Inter/International gov't permitting/Bonding
- Subcontractor Mgmt
- Creation/Distribution of RFP/RPQ Bidding Packages
- Information Technology: Development/Implementation/Management/Records Mgmt
- Database Mgmt: Microsoft Access, Excel, GIS applications
- Training

## EXPERIENCE

**MARCH 2022 -**

**PASSENGER SAFETY OFFICER, SEAPORT**

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Assisted with all safety compliance via Port terminals and cargo compliance areas; managed traffic compliance; assisted terminals for boarding passengers; worked closely with team to complete assignments; produced solutions for ingress/digress traffic and population issues that directly involve safety and security for the Port.

**2013 – JANUARY 2022**

**PROJECT MANAGER/EXEC ASSIST TO PRINCIPAL**

SILVERGATE CORP.

Coordinated build/operation of facilities & distribution construction/development projects; met all permitting requirements; created capital/operating yearly budgets all with 5/10-yr capital improvement plan; met all OSHA compliance; completed all mandated governmental reporting; coordinated preventative maintenance schedules on all equipment; all phases of procurement and contracting; designed and keep all necessary electronic/written documentation via necessary permits; coordinated heavy equipment schedules; coordinated all water lab testing via third-party testing for national and international compliance pertaining to waste/drinking water lift/stations; worked with stakeholders and senior leadership/management to rapidly develop multi-prong implementation of project plans; developed, maintained, and tracked project management plans and schedule; developed strong expertise in applying flexible change management deliverables, including: training, communications, and stakeholder engagement; developed detailed program/project execution plan and managed all implementation processes including resource allocation, progress tracking, monitoring change control process, project documentation, training and on-time delivery of product(s) within budget constraints.

(CONT'D)

2009 – 2013

**EDUCATIONAL/TRAINING REGIONAL COORDINATOR**

REEVES DEV.

Designed, implemented, trained in the areas of: OSHA, NCCER (National Center of Construction Educational Resources) CDL, and heavy equipment for the purposes of insurance compliance; met all state testing compliance requirements; created capital/operational annual budgets; implemented Pearson's testing center; interfaced with multiple state agencies; full compliance with all grant receivership via the Federal Dept. of Education.

2006 – 2009

**PROJECT COORDINATOR**

KATZ, LLC.

Write, designed bid packages to not only met compliance, but assist company by lowering production cost via thorough research/examination of build detail; manage projects which exceeded \$750M; addressed architectural and structural issues; managed project teams to assure complete quality assurance; assisted with minimizing all risk through examination of all logistics pertaining to project builds; worked closely with clients in all phases of project to ensure complete satisfaction; conducted performance management reviews on sub-contractors/divisions/individual employees as directed.

## EDUCATION

1997

Ursuline, B.A. of Business, *Public Relations*

1999

Nova Southeastern, Master's, *Public Administration*

2011

Univ of Florida, NCCER (National Construction Center of Education and Resources), *Certifications*

2017

Univ of Cal, Div. of Water Resources, Water/Wastewater Distribution, *Certifications*

## SKILLS

- Verbal and written communication;
- Maintaining optimistic professional interaction among development and governmental officials/groups;
- International experience;
- International experience;
- Computer software/management;
- Problem solving;
- Eye for detail;
- Efficient: focused on the bottom line;
- Adapting to constantly changing field of technology and how it interacts with all levels of business.

## ACTIVITIES

- ◇ Member: Historic Mount Zion Church
- ◇ Physical activities: walking/hiking/swimming, tennis;
- ◇ Reading: non-fiction publications/biographies; various news outlets;
- ◇ Volunteer: Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club, Smile Train, YMCA; WWF;
- ◇ Exploring local festivals/city activities;
- ◇ Spending time with family and close friends.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct professor: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical and Nova Southeastern University 1999-2004
- Certified Lifeguard

*(End of Resume)*

# Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General



## EXHIBIT #5

*Mr. Kovanes' Employment Application for East Coast Rigging and Scaffolding of Florida*

(3 pages)

Report of Investigation  
IG23-0014-I



Full Name: Chuck Forest Relationship: Supervisor  
Company: Silvergate Inc. Phone: 619 720 3350  
Address: Miami, Fla

Full Name: David Katz Relationship: Supervisor, owner  
Company: Katz LLC Phone: 305 981 6061  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: Lisa Carter Relationship: Supervisor  
Company: City of Miami Phone: 305 205 3000  
Address: Miami, Fl

**Previous Employment**

Company: Silvergate Inc. Phone: 619 720 3350  
Address: Miami Fla Supervisor: Chuck Forest

Job Title: Project Mgr Starting Salary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Salary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Responsibilities: Logistics, Budgeting, Scheduling, contracting w/ subcontractors

From: 2019 To: 2020 Reason for Leaving: COVID19 Laid off

May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference? YES  NO

Company: State of Florida Phone: 702 691 2020  
Address: Tallahassee Supervisor: Steven Grant

Job Title: waste/water operator Starting Salary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Salary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Responsibilities: over see daily activities, monthly MOR, DMR

From: 2016 To: 2019 Reason for Leaving: moved

May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference? YES  NO

Company: GEO, Inc Phone: 561 662 3200  
Address: Boca Raton, Fla Supervisor: Branda Williams

Job Title: Ed. Coordinator Starting Salary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Salary: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Responsibilities: NCCER certifications, trade development

From: 2010 To: 2016 Reason for Leaving: moved



# Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General



## EXHIBIT #6

*Mr. Kovanes' Criminal History Reviewed by the Seaport Department*

(14 pages)

Report of Investigation  
IG23-0014-I



HUMAN RESOURCES  
FINGERPRINT AND I.D. INFORMATION

Last Name: Kovanes First Name: Christopher MI: J

Address: 624 NE 61<sup>st</sup> St

City: Miami State: FL Zip Code: 33137

Contact Phone No.: (310) 428-4763 Email: christopher.kovanes@gmail.com

Date of Birth: 05/07/1971 Place of Birth (State or Country): Ohio

Gender: M Height: 5 Feet 7 Inches Weight: 180 Eyes: Brn Hair: Brn

Race which you would be identified (Please check one):

White  Black  Asian  Other

Are you a US Citizen? Yes  No  Social Security Number: [REDACTED]

Department: 064 Classification: Sea Port Off.

To be completed by the Department Personnel Representative Only.

Job Opening # 63926 Index Code: SP420SECUR2

Contractor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment Time: \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Employee Signature

2/22/22  
Date

# FDLE Information Notification System

Sent Date: 2/23/22 1:45 PM    Purge Date: 8/22/22 1:45 PM    Mail Ref.No: ORG006439-4790704

Subject : *Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)*

\*\*\*\*\* Applicant Information As Submitted In Transaction \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant SSN: ██████████  
Applicant Name: KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J  
Applicant Alias Name(s):  
Applicant Race: W  
Applicant Sex: M  
Applicant Birthdate: 19710507  
Applicant Address: 624 NE 61 ST MIAMI, FL 33137  
Applicant Place of Birth: OH  
Applicant Eye Color: BRO  
Applicant Hair Color: BRO  
Applicant Height: 507  
Applicant Weight: 180

Submitted ATN:  
Submitted OCA:  
Submitted MNU 1:  
Submitted MNU 2:  
Submitted MNU 3:  
Submitted MNU 4:  
Submitted OCP: SPPASAOFF/064  
Submitted TSR:  
Submitted DPR: 20220222

Customer ORI Number: FL925008Z  
Customer Name: CNTY - MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES

Livescan Device Number: LSD000187  
Livescan Device Owner: VECHS - MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

TCN: 70T06T00106268

\*\*\*\*\* Florida Criminal History Record Response Listed Below \*\*\*\*\*

--FLORIDA CCH RESPONSE--  
FC.DLE/05133086.PUR/I.ATN/FL925008Z/CWCS  
SID NUMBER: 05133086    PURPOSE CODE: Non-CJ Employment and Licensing

=====  
=====  
Because additions or deletions may be made at any time, a new copy should be re  
quested when needed for future use.  
=====  
=====  
- Florida Criminal History -  
=====

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

=====

===== IDENTITY SECTION =====

State ID  
05133086

FBI Number            DOC Number  
523423NB0            B07690

===== DEMOGRAPHICS =====

Name                    Date of Birth            Social Security Number  
KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER JOHN 05/07/1971            [REDACTED]

Sex                      Race                      Place of Birth  
Male                      White                      Ohio

Height                    Weight                    Ethnicity  
5' 07"                    204 lbs

Hair Color                Eye Color  
Brown                      Brown

Other Name(s)  
KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J  
KOVARES, CHRISTOPHER J  
KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER

Address  
3630 NW 20TH ST, COCONUT CRE, Florida

===== Cycle 1 =====

OBTS                      0011471603  
Arrest

Date of Arrest            05/27/2000  
Charge                    001  
Arresting Agency ORI    FL0061200  
Arresting Agency Name   Davie Police Department  
Agency Case Number    529810  
Turned Over To  
Agency ORI                FL0060000  
Turned Over To  
Agency Name               Broward County Sheriffs Office  
AON Description            Battery

Statute                    Level                      Degree  
                                  Misdemeanor                Unknown

Offense Literal            DOM  
Charge Count                1

===== Cycle 2 =====

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

=====

OBTS 0607058980  
Arrest

Date of Arrest 11/23/2005  
Charge 001  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0063500  
Arresting Agency Name FL Dept Of Law Enforcement-FT Lauderdale  
Date of Offense 11/23/2005  
Agency Case Number 770500027  
AON Description Fraud-Swindle

Statute	Level	Degree
817.034.4a2	Felony	2nd Degree

Statute Description Obtain Property 20k Less Than 50k Dols  
Offense Literal OBTAIN PROPERTY OVER 20000 DOLLARS  
Charge Count 1

Charge 002  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0063500  
Arresting Agency Name FL Dept Of Law Enforcement-FT Lauderdale  
Date of Offense 11/23/2005  
Agency Case Number 770500027  
AON Description Larc

Statute	Level	Degree
812.014.2a1	Felony	1st Degree

Statute Description GRAND THEFT \$100K+ SEMI LEO CAUSE DAMAGE  
Offense Literal GRAND THEFT FIRST DEGREE 100000  
Charge Count 1

Charge 003  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0063500  
Arresting Agency Name FL Dept Of Law Enforcement-FT Lauderdale  
Date of Offense 11/23/2005  
Agency Case Number 770500027  
AON Description Public Order Crimes

Statute	Level	Degree
896.101	Felony	2nd Degree

Statute Description Public Order Crimes  
Offense Literal FINANCIAL TRANSACTN W PROCEEDS UNLAW ACTIVITY  
Charge Count 1

===== Cycle 3 =====

OBTS 0608065185  
Arrest

Date of Arrest 12/02/2005  
Charge 001

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Arresting Agency ORI FL0060000  
Arresting Agency Name Broward County Sheriffs Office  
Date of Offense 12/02/2005  
Agency Case Number 500514809  
AON Description Fraud-Swindle

Statute Level Degree  
817.034.4a1 Felony 3rd Degree

Statute Description Obtain Property 50k Dols Or More  
Offense Literal OBTAIN PROPERTY OVER 50000 DOLLARS  
Charge Count 1

Charge 002  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0060000  
Arresting Agency Name Broward County Sheriffs Office  
Date of Offense 12/02/2005  
Agency Case Number 500514809  
AON Description Larc

Statute Level Degree  
812.014.2b Felony 2nd Degree

Statute Description Larc  
Offense Literal GRAND THEFT 20000 100000  
Charge Count 1

Charge 003  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0060000  
Arresting Agency Name Broward County Sheriffs Office  
Date of Offense 12/02/2005  
Agency Case Number 500514809  
AON Description Public Order Crimes

Statute Level Degree  
896.101 Felony 2nd Degree

Statute Description Public Order Crimes  
Offense Literal FINANCIAL TRANSACTN W PROCEEDS UNLAW ACTIVITY  
Charge Count 1

===== Cycle 4 =====

OBTS 1307138396  
Arrest

Date of Arrest 01/13/2006  
Charge 001 Re-Arrest  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0133000  
Arresting Agency Name FDLE Miami Regional Operations Center  
Agency Case Number 0913556  
AON Description Failure To Appear

Statute Level Degree  
Unknown Unknown

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Offense Literal FUG BROWARD COUNTY  
Charge Count 1

===== Cycle 5 =====

OBTS 0608140865  
Arrest

Date of Arrest 10/13/2009  
Charge 001  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0060000  
Arresting Agency Name Broward County Sheriffs Office  
Date of Offense 10/13/2009  
AON Description Fraud

Statute	Level	Degree
	Felony	Unknown

Offense Literal FRAUD - ORGANIZED  
Charge Count 1

Judicial  
Charge 001-1

Arrest Charge Status Charge Resulted From Arrest

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062008CF000126A88810  
Sequence Number 5

Court  
Court Charge Status Same  
CON Description Fraud  
Offense Literal ORGANIZED FRAUD

Statute	Level	Degree
817.03	Felony	Unknown

Statute Description To Obtain Credit Or Property  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken Guilty/Convicted  
Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

Sentence  
Sentence Type N/A - Not Applicable  
Sentence Imposed Date 10/13/2009  
Sentence  
Sequence Number 0  
Maximum Confinement 12 years  
Confinement Type State Prison Facility  
Credit Time Served 0 days  
Probation Length 10 years  
Court Fine (\$) 0.00

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Court Cost (\$) 0.00  
Restitution (\$) 0.00

Charge 002  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0060000  
Arresting Agency Name Broward County Sheriffs Office  
Date of Offense 10/13/2009  
AON Description Fraud

Statute Level Degree  
Felony Unknown

Offense Literal FRAUD - MONEY LAUNDERING  
Charge Count 1

Judicial  
Charge 002-1

Arrest Charge Status Charge Resulted From Arrest

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062008CF000126A88810  
Sequence Number 3

Court  
Court Charge Status Same  
CON Description Fraud  
Offense Literal MONEY LAUNDERING

Statute Level Degree  
896.101.5c Felony Unknown

Statute Description Money Launder Trans 100k Dols Or More  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken Guilty/Convicted  
Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

Sentence  
Sentence Type N/A - Not Applicable  
Sentence Imposed Date 10/13/2009  
Sentence  
Sequence Number 0  
Maximum Confinement 12 years  
Confinement Type State Prison Facility  
Credit Time Served 0 days  
Probation Length 10 years  
Court Fine (\$) 0.00  
Court Cost (\$) 0.00  
Restitution (\$) 0.00

Charge 003  
Arresting Agency ORI FL0060000  
Arresting Agency Name Broward County Sheriffs Office  
Date of Offense 10/13/2009  
AON Description Fraud

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Statute	Level	Degree
	Felony	Unknown

Offense Literal FRAUD - ORGANIZED  
Charge Count 1

Judicial  
Charge 003-1

Arrest Charge Status Charge Resulted From Arrest

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062009CF014097A88810  
Sequence Number 1

Court

Court Charge Status Same  
CON Description Fraud  
Offense Literal ORGANIZED FRAUD

Statute	Level	Degree
817.03	Felony	Unknown

Statute Description To Obtain Credit Or Property  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken Guilty/Convicted  
Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

Sentence

Sentence Type N/A - Not Applicable  
Sentence Imposed Date 10/13/2009

Sentence

Sequence Number 0  
Maximum Confinement 12 years  
Confinement Type State Prison Facility  
Credit Time Served 0 days  
Probation Length 10 years  
Court Fine (\$) 0.00  
Court Cost (\$) 0.00  
Restitution (\$) 0.00

Charge 004

Arresting Agency ORI FL0060000  
Arresting Agency Name Broward County Sheriffs Office  
Date of Offense 10/13/2009  
AON Description Fraud

Statute	Level	Degree
	Felony	Unknown

Offense Literal FRAUD - MONEY LAUNDERING  
Charge Count 1

Judicial

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Charge 004-1

Arrest Charge Status Charge Resulted From Arrest

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062009CF014097A88810  
Sequence Number 3

Court

Court Charge Status Same  
CON Description Fraud  
Offense Literal MONEY LAUNDERING

Statute Level Degree  
896.101.5c Felony Unknown

Statute Description Money Launder Trans 100k Dols Or More  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken Guilty/Convicted  
Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

Sentence

Sentence Type N/A - Not Applicable  
Sentence Imposed Date 10/13/2009

Sentence

Sequence Number 0  
Maximum Confinement 12 years  
Confinement Type State Prison Facility  
Credit Time Served 0 days  
Probation Length 10 years  
Court Fine (\$) 0.00  
Court Cost (\$) 0.00  
Restitution (\$) 0.00

Charge 005

Arresting Agency ORI FL0060000  
Arresting Agency Name Broward County Sheriffs Office  
Date of Offense 10/13/2009  
AON Description Fraud

Statute Level Degree  
Felony Unknown

Offense Literal FRAUD - ORGANIZED  
Charge Count 1

Judicial

Charge 005-1

Arrest Charge Status Charge Resulted From Arrest

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062009CF014098A88810  
Sequence Number 1

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Court

Court Charge Status Same  
CON Description Fraud  
Offense Literal ORGANIZED FRAUD

Statute Level Degree  
817.03 Felony Unknown

Statute Description To Obtain Credit Or Property  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken Guilty/Convicted  
Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

Sentence

Sentence Type N/A - Not Applicable  
Sentence Imposed Date 10/13/2009

Sentence

Sequence Number 0  
Maximum Confinement 12 years  
Confinement Type State Prison Facility  
Credit Time Served 0 days  
Probation Length 10 years  
Court Fine (\$) 0.00  
Court Cost (\$) 0.00  
Restitution (\$) 0.00

Added Charges

Judicial  
Charge 006-1

Arrest Charge Status Added Charge

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062009CF014098A88810  
Sequence Number 3

Court

Court Charge Status Added Charge  
CON Description Fraud  
Offense Literal MONEY LAUNDERING

Statute Level Degree  
896.101.5c Felony Unknown

Statute Description Money Launder Trans 100k Dols Or More  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken Guilty/Convicted  
Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

Sentence

Sentence Type N/A - Not Applicable  
Sentence Imposed Date 10/13/2009

Sentence

Sequence Number 0

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Maximum Confinement 12 years  
Confinement Type State Prison Facility  
Credit Time Served 0 days  
Probation Length 10 years  
Court Fine (\$) 0.00  
Court Cost (\$) 0.00  
Restitution (\$) 0.00

Added Charges  
Judicial  
Charge 006-2

Arrest Charge Status Added Charge

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062008CF000126A88810  
Sequence Number 2

Prosecution  
Prosecution  
Charge Status Added Charge  
PON Description Larc  
Offense Literal GRAND

Statute	Level	Degree
812.014.2a	Felony	1st Degree

Statute Description GRAND THEFT \$100K+ SEMI LEO CAUSE DAMAGE  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken No Action  
Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

Added Charges  
Judicial  
Charge 006-3

Arrest Charge Status Added Charge

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062009CF014097A88810  
Sequence Number 2

Prosecution  
Prosecution  
Charge Status Added Charge  
PON Description Larc  
Offense Literal GRAND

Statute	Level	Degree
812.014.2a	Felony	1st Degree

Statute Description GRAND THEFT \$100K+ SEMI LEO CAUSE DAMAGE  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken No Action

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

Added Charges

Judicial Charge 006-4

Arrest Charge Status Added Charge

Judicial Agency ORI FL006015J  
Judicial Agency Name Broward County Clerk of Court  
Uniform Case Number 062009CF014098A88810  
Sequence Number 2

Prosecution

Prosecution Charge Status Added Charge  
PON Description Larc  
Offense Literal GRAND

Statute Level Degree  
812.014.2a Felony 1st Degree

Statute Description GRAND THEFT \$100K+ SEMI LEO CAUSE DAMAGE  
Charge Count 1  
Final Action Taken No Action  
Final Decision Date 10/13/2009

=====  
Cycle 6  
=====

OBTS 1350036705  
Correction Admission  
Date of Admission DOC Number  
10/20/2009

Admission Agency ORI FL013015C  
Admission Agency Name South Florida Reception Center  
Admission Type New Commitment / Prisoner

=====  
REGISTRATION  
=====

OBTS 0504003654

Name(s) Date(s) of Birth Social Security Number(s)  
KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J 05/07/1971 [REDACTED]  
KOVARES, CHRISTOPHER J  
KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER  
KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER

Sex Race Place of Birth  
Male White Ohio

Height Weight Ethnicity  
5' 07" 165 lbs

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Address  
3630 NW 20TH ST, COCONUT CRE, Florida

Date of Registration 12/20/2019  
Registering Agency ORI FL0050000  
Registering Agency Name Brevard County Sheriffs Office

Charge 001  
AON Description Criminal Registration  
Registration Literal CRIMINAL REGISTRATION NOT AN ARREST MONEY LAUNDRYIN  
G BROWARD COUNTY 10 YEARS PROBATION 10 YEARS PROBATIO  
N  
Registration Type Criminal Registrant  
Statute 775.13  
Statute Description

=====  
This is a single-source offender record.  
=====  
This record contains Florida information only. When explanation of a charge or  
disposition is needed, communicate directly with the agency that contributed  
the record information.  
=====  
This record may only be used for the purpose requested as defined by the Code  
of Federal Regulations and/or Florida Statute.  
=====  
End of record  
=====  
--END--

\*\*\*\*\* CWCS SYSTEM NOTIFICATION MESSAGE: \*\*\*\*\*

One Of The Primary Goals Of The Florida Department Of Law Enforcement  
(FDLE) Is The Timely Notification Of Offender Information To the  
Public To Ensure Public Safety. The Following Information Is Being  
Provided As A Public Service And May Not Mean That The Subject Is  
Wanted. Unlike The Criminal History Record Check Response, The  
Information Being Provided Below Is Not Based On A Fingerprint  
Comparison But Is A Comparison Between The Subject Data Provided In  
Your Agency's Criminal History Request And Demographic Data Provided  
To FDLE From Criminal Justice Agencies. As Such, Your Subject May Or  
May Not Be The Same Person As The Subject Named In The Record Below.  
If The Information Below Reflects A Warrant, The Law Enforcement Agency  
Holding The Warrant Has Been Notified About Your Inquiry On Him Or  
Her. For Further Information About This Report, Please Contact The  
Agency Listed In The Notification Segment(s) Below. If Your Attempt  
To Obtain More Information Is Unsuccessful, You May Want To Visit Our  
Website At [www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us) And Click On "Wanted/Missing Persons"

Subject : Results of check for KOVANES, CHRISTOPHER J (70T06T00106268)

Under "Search Our Systems" --- This Site Contains Additional Public Record Information That May Be Of Assistance.

\*\*\*\*\* Notification Report Information \*\*\*\*\*

The subject may have additional criminal justice information as noted below:

Information Type: Probation OR Supervised Release Status

Contact Agency: FL005315G

Telephone Numbers: DOC PROB & PAROLE SERV MELBOURNE 321 752-3145

- o For more information, please call the above listed agency directly.
- o And, please provide the contact agency with PCN Number &lt;unavailable> and/or NIC Number C955373500 which will assist their staff in locating the specific record information that maybe associated with your subject.

\*\*\*\*\* Notification Report Information \*\*\*\*\*

The subject may have additional criminal justice information as noted below:

Information Type: Inmate Release Status

Contact Agency: FL037255C - FDC - TALLAHASSEE HEADQUARTERS

Telephone Number: &lt;unavailable>

- o For more information, please call the above listed agency directly.
- o And, please provide the contact agency with PCN Number C118541258 and/or NIC Number NONE which will assist their staff in locating the specific record information that maybe associated with your subject.

\*\*\*\*\* Notification Report Information \*\*\*\*\*

The subject may have additional criminal justice information as noted below:

Information Type: Probation OR Supervised Release Status

Contact Agency: FL005315G - FDC -181- MELBOURNE INTAKE P&P

Telephone Number: 321 752-3145

- o For more information, please call the above listed agency directly.
- o And, please provide the contact agency with PCN Number C118541358 and/or NIC Number C955373500 which will assist their staff in locating the specific record information that maybe associated with your subject.

\*\*\*\*\* National/FBI Criminal History Record Response Listed Below \*\*\*\*\*

There Was NO National/FBI Criminal History Record Identified.

# Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General



## APPENDIX A

Response from Seaport  
(1 page)

Report of Investigation  
IG23-0014-I

# Memorandum



**Date:** May 14, 2024

**To:** Felix Jimenez  
Inspector General  
Office of Management and Enterprise Services

**From:** Hydi Webb  
Director  
Seaport Department 

**Subject:** OIG Report Investigation – Ref. IG 23-0014-1- Seaport Department Response

---

I have carefully reviewed your draft Report of Investigation- Falsification of Resume and Employment Information by Former Seaport and Current DTPW Employee, Ref. IG 23-0014-1 and subsequent recommendations.

I concur that Mr. Christopher Kovanes provided false employment information to the Seaport Department and benefited from a lack of cross-referencing and verification of his employment application. The Seaport Department recognizes that Mr. Kovanes' employment application and references were reviewed in a perfunctory manner, and that Mr. Kovanes would not have been hired by the Seaport Department had we discovered the falsification of the information provided.

As a result, the Seaport Human Resources Division will immediately implement the following changes to our hiring practices.

- Reference information provided by applicants will be carefully reviewed and compared with the employment application. Seaport Human Resources will implement an additional layer of review in the verification process.
- Criminal history checks with "hits" will be compared to applications or references to ensure accuracy of information.
- Ensure that all applicants transferring to the Seaport Department in a position of fiduciary trust will automatically trigger a review of their electronic backgrounds maintained by the Human Resources Department.
- Work with the Human Resources Department to identify best practices in interdepartmental transfers and additional training.

I would like to thank you for giving the Seaport an opportunity to respond to this investigative finding report. Please contact me at your convenience if I can provide any additional information or assistance.

c: Andrew Hecker, Deputy Director Seaport  
Frederick P. Wong Jr., Deputy Director Seaport

# Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General



## APPENDIX B

Response from the Department of Transportation and Public Works  
(4 pages)

Report of Investigation  
IG23-0014-I

**From:** [Rowan, James \(DTPW\)](#)  
**To:** [Perikles, Marie F. \(OIG\)](#); [Cleckley, Eulois \(DTPW\)](#); [Sealy, Sonya \(DTPW\)](#); [Cartagena, Melvin \(DTPW\)](#); [Joseph, Alonzo \(DTPW\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Rodriguez, Diego \(OIG\)](#); [Romero, Oswaldo \(OIG\)](#); [Hendrieth, Kehara \(OIG\)](#); [Jimenez, Felix \(OIG\)](#); [McNally, Maria L. \(OIG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: DTPW Response  
**Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 10:00:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[Christopher Kovanes Dismissal.pdf](#)  
[Outlook-udys1riv.png](#)

---

Good morning, All,

We reviewed the draft OIG report and there are no changes that DTPW request. If the OIG believes it is necessary to close out their report, DTPW did issue Mr. Kovanes a Disciplinary Action Report dated March 14, 2024, for falsifying his employment application. Mr. Kovanes came before Director Cleckley on April 30, 2024 with his union representative to provide his rebuttal to the allegations in the discipline and was subsequently terminated from County services on May 13, 2024.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (786) 909-6435.

Thanks.

James

**James C. Rowan, Chief**  
**Office of Civil Rights and Labor Relations**  
Department of Transportation and Public Works  
701 NW 1st Court, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Miami, Florida 33136  
e: [james.rowan@miamidade.gov](mailto:james.rowan@miamidade.gov)  
o: (786) 469-5042





miamidade.gov

**TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Office of the Director**  
701 N.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Court • 17th Floor  
Miami, Florida 33136

May 13, 2024

Christopher Kovanes  
PO Box 520333  
Miami, FL 33152

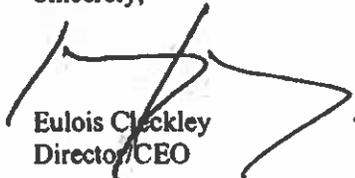
Mr. Kovanes:

On April 30, 2024, I met with you and your representative Ernest Charles to discuss the recommendation for your dismissal from County service because of the attached Disciplinary Action Report dated March 14, 2024. Management representatives in attendance were James Rowan, Sonya Sealy, Jennifer Clarke, Janik Hall, Melissa Rolle-Scott, Alonzo Joseph, and Melvin Cartagena.

I carefully reviewed your work history and all the relevant information regarding your violations of the Miami-Dade County Personnel Rules. Accordingly, this is to advise you, effective immediately you are hereby dismissed from County service. This action is being taken in accordance with Chapter VIII, Section 7, and Paragraph (Q) of the Miami-Dade County Personnel Rules, as detailed in the attached Disciplinary Action Report dated March 14, 2024 and incorporated herein by reference.

You may appeal your termination to a Hearing Examiner by writing to the Interim Director of the Human Resources Department, Melanie McLean, Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 Northwest First Street, Suite 2110, Miami, Florida 33128. The appeal must be filed within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



Eulois Checkley  
Director/CEO

Attachment

c: James Rowan, Chief, Office of Civil Rights & Labor Relations, DTPW  
Melissa Scott, Assistant Director, Administration, DTPW  
Melvin Cartagena, Assistant Director, Financial Services, DTPW  
Alonzo Joseph, Chief, DTPW Contracts & Procurement, DTPW  
Melanie McLean, Interim Director, Human Resources Department, MDC  
Personnel file  
GSAF

Via Regular U.S. and Certified Mail: (7014 3490 0000 7161 3688)

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION REPORT**

Report Date: 3/14/2024

Employee ID: 00329294

Employee Name: Christopher Kovanes

Hire Date: 3/7/2022

Department: Transportation &  
Public Works

Division: TP14060100

DAR Number: 1427

Employee Status: Probationary Employee Classification: Administrative Officer 3 Union Code: K

You are hereby charged with violating the County's Personnel Rules, Chapter VIII, Section 7, Paragraph:

**Violations:**

Q : Falsified Application.

**Discipline Offenses:**

FCD : Falsified County document

**Administrative/Implementing Orders:**

**Departmental Standard Operational Procedures (DSOP):**

**Miscellaneous Departmental Violations:**

FACTS: (Description of specific actions, statements made by employee; attach statement of witness, if any, and attach copies of other documents if appropriate. Also state reasons for recommendation.)

The Miami-Dade County Office of Inspector General (OIG) notified the executive leadership for DTPW that you were under investigation. Based on the information provided by the OIG, management reviewed your personnel file and discovered that you falsified your application for employment with Miami-Dade County.

Under the header "Work Experience," you listed that you were employed as follows:

1. January 10, 2009 through May 27, 2013, you were employed as a Coordinator with Reeves Development.
2. June 22, 2013 through August 31, 2021, you were employed as a Project Manager for Silvergate Corporation.

However, the Florida Department of Corrections website indicates that you were incarcerated from October 20, 2009 through December 18, 2019. These dates overlap with 10-years of the dates listed on your application.

(Attach additional sheets as necessary)

03/29/2024

MELVIN CARTAGENA Signature/Date

In signing this Report I acknowledge only that it has been discussed with me and that I have received a copy. I understand that I may respond orally or in writing and that such response will be made a part of this Report and taken into consideration prior to a final determination being made.

CHRISTOPHER KOVANES Signature/Date

Dar# 1427

RECOMMENDED ACTION:  Written Reprimand  Suspension  Demotion  Dismissal

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

FINAL ACTION: Dismissal

FINAL APPROVAL:

[Signature] 5/15/24  
Signature/Date

Effective Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_

Director / CED  
Title