

**THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. 08-1
(Court Administration)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 08-08 A1
(Amending AO No. 08-08)**

**IN RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF
PROCEDURES GOVERNING
INVESTIGATIONS BY THE MIAMI-
DADE COUNTY OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL REGARDING
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PROPERTY
APPRAISER RECORDS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-1076 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, Florida, the Miami-Dade Office of the Inspector General ("OIG") is charged with investigating county affairs, programs, accounts, records, contracts and transactions; and

WHEREAS, the OIG also has the power to require reports from Miami-Dade County agencies, departments, officers and employees regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the OIG; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office is the department of Miami-Dade County that is charged with determining the value of all real property within Miami-Dade County for tax purposes and maintaining all records related to property taxes and records relating to the granting of tax exemptions; and

WHEREAS, periodically, the OIG conducts investigations that require the OIG to obtain confidential records maintained by the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office, as they are relevant to such investigations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to certain Florida statutes, the Miami-Dade Property Appraiser's Office requires a court order before releasing these confidential records; and

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2008, the undersigned entered Administrative Order No. 08-08 establishing the procedures governing investigations by the OIG regarding the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's records; and

WHEREAS, such procedures have been modified to more specifically reflect the manner in which pleadings are to be presented to the court by the OIG and/or the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the statutory requirement, the OIG will submit to the Court for its consideration a "Petition for Production and Duplication of Records from the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office" ("Petition"); and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, acting by and through the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office, will be served with the Petition, prior to the Court's determination as to whether the necessity for the information outweighs the countervailing interest in maintaining the confidentiality of such information;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the following procedures be established governing investigations by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General regarding certain records maintained by the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office:

1. The Clerk of the Courts is hereby directed to create and maintain an administrative section specifically for pleadings filed by the Office of the Inspector General in connection with its investigations involving the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office.
2. The undersigned Chief Judge, or his designee, will handle these matters.
3. All such pleadings are to be served on the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office and the Chief Judge, or his designee.
4. All such pleadings filed by the OIG shall state whether the Petition is uncontested by the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office, through the County Attorney's Office, or whether there is an objection.
5. The Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office may file a motion advising the Court of any objections and may request a hearing. Further, the Miami-Dade County Attorney's may file a motion requesting that the Court's order address issues such as the cost of production and the time for production of the records.
6. Upon receipt of the aforementioned pleadings, the Chief Judge, or his designee, will determine if a hearing will be held prior to making a determination as to whether the necessity for the information being requested by the OIG outweighs the countervailing interest in maintaining the confidentiality of such information.
7. The Chief Judge, or his designee, may enter an order addressing the time of production, the costs of such production or any other issues raised by motion by the parties, based on the pleadings without a hearing at the

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discretion of the Chief Judge or his designee.

This Order shall take effect immediately upon execution, and shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade, Florida, this 16th day of September, 2008.

**JOSEPH P. FARINA, CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**