

Biscayne Building  
19 W. Flagler St., Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
Phone (305) 579-2594  
Fax (305) 579-0273

**Commission on Ethics &  
Public Trust**  
Miami-Dade County

# Memorandum

**To: Michael Murawski**

**File: K14-035**

**Date: 4/14/2014**

**From: Robert Steinback**

**Re: Referral of case to the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General**

---

## To Whom This Concerns:

Daniel Herbert is General Manager of a firm called the Remediation Group, a general contracting company specializing in property remediation (correcting mold and water damage and similar problems), reconstruction and restoration. The firm bid on a contract related to the renovation of Opa-locka City Hall, which would tap money from a \$2 million county grant set aside for that project. The renovation funding was reportedly arranged by County Commission Barbara Jordan.

The contract at issue was for the first phase of the reconstruction, involving primarily demolition. The company was not only the highest-scoring bidder by a substantial margin as determined by city staff; its bid of \$187,704 was the lowest bid by \$109,000 compared to the second-place company. But at its Feb. 26, 2014, meeting, the Opa-locka City Commission voted to skip over Remediation Group and award the contract to the second-highest bidder, using allegedly sketchy reasoning Herbert says doesn't stand up to scrutiny. For example: According to the minutes of the Commission meeting, one reason given for the decision was that the second-highest bidder made a commitment to hire from within the city of Opa-locka. But the Remediation Group made a similar commitment, in its case, to hire a least four local individuals. A statement also was made by a city commissioner that he had received information that Remediation Group had a history with the city of requesting additional money after the award of a contract. Herbert denies that Remediation Group has ever been a contractor for the City of Opa-locka.

Herbert claims that Opa-locka has no bid-protest procedure. I could not find such a procedure in the city code.

Herbert insists that due to his disappointment and disaffection regarding the selection process, he no longer wishes to secure this bid. However, he believes taxpayer money was squandered

when the City Commission chose to override the recommendation of its own administration and award this bid to a lower-rated and higher-priced bidder.

Although this is a city matter, the county funding source should give the OIG wherewithal to assert jurisdiction. Although the cost of this particular contract is relatively small, it is only the first phase of a \$2 million allocation to Opa-locka, which raises at least a concern about future bid-award practices and the public perception of same.

Daniel Herbert Office: 954-779-3098; Cell 561-248-4935. E-mail: [Daniel@remgroupinc.com](mailto:Daniel@remgroupinc.com).

File available in COE office.

The Commission on Ethics refers this case to the OIG as the appropriate investigative agency.