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REPORT NO. 2015-39

TO: Rodney Fischer, Executive Director
Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board

FROM: Hector Collazo, Jr., Inspector General /Chief Audit Executive
Division of Inspector General

DIST: Ken Burke, CPA, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Mark Woodard, County Administrator
Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Investigation of Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board
Hiring Practices

DATE: November 6, 2015

The Division of Inspector General's Public Integrity Unit received anonymous allegations of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse. We investigated the following allegations related to the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB) hiring practices.

The complainant alleged that:

1. The PCCLB Executive Director abused his authority and Unified Personnel System rules by hiring an unqualified individual for the Contractor Certification Field Investigator 1 position.
2. A PCCLB employee unlawfully claimed veteran's preference points on their employment application.

The complainant did not provide documentation to assist with the investigation.

To determine whether the allegations were substantiated, we reviewed applicable County hard files and electronic records for the timeframe of 1990 to current including:

- Human Resources Department files
- Office of Human Rights files



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We reviewed Unified Personnel System rules and County policies and procedures related to new employee hiring, Florida Statute Title XX Chapter 295 relating to hiring veterans, and any other records deemed appropriate. Our investigation was performed according to the *Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General* and *The Florida Inspectors General Standards Manual* from The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

The Division of Inspector General's investigation of the allegations has determined that the allegations noted above are:

1. **Unfounded.** The PCCLB Executive Director did not violate Unified Personnel System rules. The Executive Director has the right to appoint any person on the eligible list to fill a vacancy as long as the appointment is in conformity with the requirements set forth in Florida Statute Title XX Chapter 295.
2. **Unfounded.** A PCCLB employee did not unlawfully claim veteran's preference points on their employment application.

We want to thank the Pinellas County Human Resources Department and Office of Human Rights management and staff for their assistance and cooperation during this investigation.