



ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL

Advancing Professionalism, Accountability & Integrity

524 West 59th Street, Room 53334HH
New York, NY 10019-10019

S. WILLIAM FLETCHER
PRESIDENT

MICHAEL CASTRILLI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 2, 2026

Melissa Dondero
Inspector General
Division of Inspector General
Pinellas County, FL
510 Bay Ave, Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Inspector General Dondero,

The Association of Inspectors General (AIG) performed a Peer Review of the Division of Inspector General, Pinellas County, Audit Division (AD), and Investigation Division (ID), at your request. The Peer Review Team (Team) evaluated the work of these Divisions covering the period of September 2021 through December 2025. The Team performed the review during the week of June 1, 2026, through June 4, 2026, which took place at your office in Pinellas County, Florida. The Team assessed the work of the AD and ID for compliance with the *Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General*, and the *United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) Government Auditing Standards*, and the *Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*. These standards are consistent with the qualitative standards under which your office's AD and ID have operated throughout the review period.

The three person Peer Review Team consisted of the following individuals:

Dr. Glenda B. Arrington, Inspector General, (Senior Executive - Retired)
Office of Inspector General, United States Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Dr. Leigh R. Anderson, Executive Director
Police Accountability Team (Mayor's Office), City of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH

Mrs. Trystal S. Wright, Audit Director
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL

On behalf of the Team, I am pleased to advise that we found no reportable instances of failure to meet the above standards and therefore, no limitations or qualifications in our opinion for the AD and ID. It is the unanimous conclusion of the Team that AD and ID met the relevant AIG, GAO, and/or IIA standards for the period under review for the core competencies of the AIG. Non-IG areas of concerns include the duties of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Driver and Vehicle Information Database (DAVID), and Guardianship by which the Division of the Inspector General Pinellas County is currently preforming.

The remainder of this letter sets forth the purpose, scope, and methodology of the Peer Review.

Purpose

The Team conducted an independent, qualitative review of the operations of the AD and ID of the Division of the IG Pinellas County focusing on compliance with agreed-upon standards.

Scope

The Peer Review covered AD and ID operations, resulting work products, and related file materials chosen from closed audits and investigations for Years 2021 through 2025. The Peer Review's scope also covered the Divisions' compliance with their relevant policy and process manuals and procedural guides; staff qualifications; and professional training requirements. Lastly, the Peer Review assessed supervisory review and quality control over the work products. The Team met with external stakeholders with whom the Division of IG Pinellas County frequently work, and who are the recipients of their work products.

Method

The Team followed the Peer Review/Qualitative Assessment Review Checklists based on AIG, GAO, and/or IIA Quality Standards. The Team also called upon their own professional experience as senior executive managers of various Offices of Inspector General and through their knowledge of and expertise with best practices within the Inspector General community.

Prior to the actual on-site review, the Team requested information from both AD and ID, including but not limited to policy and procedures manuals, closed case logs, a list of issued reports, and a list of external stakeholders. The Team used this information to select the work products and related case materials that were reviewed once on-site.

On June 1, 2026, the Team held an entrance conference with you and your executive leadership, during which time we explained the Peer Review scope, methodology, limitations, and proposed schedule. During that morning, we also delivered our request

for sample review materials. During the week, the Team conducted fieldwork through examination of the selected case files. The Team also interviewed staff from AD and ID. Interviewees for both Divisions included the Assistant Inspectors General (AIG) and other staff. The Team also reviewed the personnel files of current AD and ID staff and reviewed their Training and Continuing Education files, and all relevant policy and process manuals and procedural guides. All file requests were met fully and in a timely manner.

The Team also met with you and with members of your executive leadership to gauge their involvement and interaction with AD and ID operations.

The Team conducted all interviews in confidence and without any limitation on scope or time. The Team requested follow-up interviews and explanations, as well as any supplemental documentation, and the staff graciously accommodated the Team.

The Teams also independently chose external stakeholders to interview. Meetings were arranged between the Team and the external stakeholders for the purpose of evaluating agency cooperation, effectiveness, and responsiveness. Stakeholders included representatives from:

- Investigator, Office Of The State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida
- Chief Deputy Director, Finance Division
- Chief Information Officer, Business Technology Services
- County Administrator
- Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
- Managing Assistant County Attorney
- Executive Director, Clerk Court, and Operational Services Division

Finally, the Team held an exit conference with you and your executive leadership on June 4, 2026, during which time the Team shared its conclusion that the two Divisions fully met AIG, GAO, and/or IIA standards. We provided you with our observations gathered during the review. The Peer Review Team members elaborated on the observations made during the week of review. Also, during the exit conferences, The Team provided several observations that did not limit or qualify the opinion of the Peer Review but were shared with you and your leadership team as areas of consideration going forward. Throughout the week, we had productive discussions with the Division of Inspector General Pinellas County, from the leadership to professional staff, regarding experiences working in the office.

As noted above, it is the unanimous conclusion of the Peer Review Team that AD and ID met all current and relevant AIG, GAO, and/or standards for the review period.

Inspector General Dondero
Peer Review Opinion Letter
July 2, 2026

On behalf of the AIG, I want to thank you for the confidence placed in the Association of Inspector General by requesting that we conduct this review. On behalf of the Peer Review Team, we would like to acknowledge and thank Inspector General Melissa Dondero, and Linda Fisk, for all of their efforts in the coordination and planning of this event. Additionally, we want to express our thanks for ensuring that we were provided with the necessary records and tools for a thorough and smooth review. Of note, we would like to recognize Gage Szekeres, Pinellas Clerk Technology Division, for making the virtual connections possible to conduct Stakeholders' interviews. Lastly, on behalf of the Team, we would like to recognize that in all of our interactions with your staff, we were shown the respect and cooperation that is the hallmark of a professional staff genuinely interested in a full and open review of their work. This Peer Review has been a learning experience for each member of the Peer Review Team, for which we wish to convey our sincerest thanks.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Peer Review Team if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



Dr. Glenda B. Arrington, Inspector General (Senior Executive - Retired)
Team Leader, AIG Peer Review for Division of IG Pinellas County, FL, June 2026

cc:

Dr. Leigh R. Anderson, AIG Peer Review for Division of IG Pinellas County, FL, June 2026
Mrs. Trystal S. Wright, AIG Peer Review for Division of IG Pinellas County, FL, June 2026
Mrs. Flora Miller, AIG Peer Review Committee Chair
Ms. Jodie Stickney, AIG Project Coordinator
Mr. Michael Castrilli, AIG Executive Director
Mr. Will Fletcher, AIG Board President