From:	Daniel Lewis
To:	BUSH.JAN
Cc:	twogood.philip@oppaga.fl.gov; Ethics; Daniel Lewis; abruzzo.joseph.web@flsenate.gov; gaetz.don.web@flsenate.gov
Subject:	RE: County ethics commission targeted for audit by state on Page 1B of Wednesday, April 03, 2013 issue of Palm Beach Post
Date:	Wednesday, April 10, 2013 10:29:01 AM

Dear Ms. Bush:

Thank you for your response to my email dated, Wednesday, April 03, 2013 2:11 PM. I appreciate you responding.

The email was not mean to be a "message". It was an inquiry with several questions. I appreciate that the "review is just getting underway" but I would like someone to answers these question once the review has commenced or is complete. If you are not the party that can answer these questions who should I ask?

Thank You
Sincerely,
Dan Lewis
Daniel P. Lewis, SIOR, CCIM
561-964-0700
561-629-4999 - Cellular

From: BUSH.JAN [mailto:BUSH.JAN@OPPAGA.FL.GOV]
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 8:39 AM
To: Daniel Lewis
Subject: RE: County ethics commission targeted for audit by state on Page 1B of Wednesday, April 03, 2013 issue of Palm Beach Post

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Thank you for your message regarding OPPAGA and our upcoming review of the Palm Beach County Ethics Commission. That review is just getting underway, so the details of the project have not yet been finalized.

As a research office of the Florida Legislature, OPPAGA's work spans the policy areas of Florida government. More information about OPPAGA is available on our website: www.oppaga.state.fl.us We appreciate your interest in the work of this office.

Sincerely,

Jan Bush
General Counsel
The Florida Legislature's
Office of Program Policy Analysis and

Government Accountability
111 W. Madison St. Suite 312
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1475
Telephone: (850) 717 0526
Email: Bush.Jan@oppaga.fl.gov

From: Daniel Lewis [mailto:dplewis@dplewis.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 2:11 PM
To: BUSH.JAN; abruzzo.joseph.web@flsenate.gov; gaetz.don.web@flsenate.gov
Cc: TWOGOOD.PHILIP; jsorentrue@pbpost.com; ethics@palmbeachcountyethics.com
Subject: FW: County ethics commission targeted for audit by state on Page 1B of Wednesday, April 03, 2013 issue of Palm Beach Post

Dear Ms. Bush and Sen. Abruzzo:

1. How much is it going to cost to have , ***"OPPAGA plans to send a team of analysts to Palm Beach County to review the ethics commission records"***
2. How long will the TEAM stay?
3. How many staff on the team will be here?
4. What is the purpose of the OPPAGA?
5. How many employees do you have?
6. What is your annual budget?
7. Is there a specific reason Sen. Abruzzo requested this exam?

This really seems like a horrible waste of money to have ***"a team"*** come to Palm Beach County to investigate an agency with an annual budget of $500,000.00. As a native to the Palm Beaches we are blessed (I cannot believe I am saying it) to have the Palm Beach Post reporting and exposing corruption. Their highly skilled investigative reporters are the single biggest reason why we have a Office of Inspector General. The Post is the watchdog that exposed the corruption of the County Commission.

I recommend:

1. Give the Post some specific subpoena rights and ask them to conduct your investigation or let them assist you in the investigation.
2. If the request for the investigation is determined to be a vindictive act then the person or persons wasting the taxpayer money should reimburse.
3. Consider recommending folding the Ethic Commission into the Office of Inspector General

since that is where they belong.

I will look forward to your reply. Thank you and keep up your good works.

FROM PALM BEACH H POST 4-03-13 by *Jennifer Sorentrue Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

PALM BEACH COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

County ethics commission targeted for audit by state

Sen. Joseph Abruzzo, D-Wellington, requests exam of 2-year-old panel.

By Jennifer Sorentrue Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

In an unusual move, the research arm of the Florida Legislature has been directed by state leaders to audit Palm Beach County's 2-yearold Commission on Ethics, officials said Tuesday.

The Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, known as OPPAGA, said Tuesday it has launched a lengthy review of the commission's $500,000 budget, its operating procedures and the methods it uses to enforce the county's ethics rules.

The request for the audit came from the Senate president's office. Katie Betta, spokeswoman for the office, said Senate President Don Gaetz supported a request by Sen. Joseph Abruzzo, D-Wellington and chair of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, to look into the ethics commission.

Abruzzo said he wanted to make sure "the proper training and procedures are in place" at the commission.

"It is a good thing to audit government agencies, especially those that look over others. The commission should welcome the audit with open transparency as it adds credibility to the entire process. I am a strong supporter of our inspector general and ethics oversight in Palm Beach County. It is critical that proper training and procedures are in place. The audit will help disclose how the commission operates," he said.

Megan Rogers, the ethics commission's interim director, said it appears this is the first time OPPAGA has launched an audit of an individual county department.

"We have a $500,000 budget with five employees," Rogers said. "Typically the local government issues have been related to transit authorities, improvement districts, coordination of fire departments between smaller counties, and general countywide tracking of costs."

OPPAGA General Counsel Jan Bush, however, said it was "less common" for the office to review county agencies than state ones, but "there are several examples over the years. It really depends on where the Legislature directs us."

Bush pointed to a report completed in June that looked at Miami-Dade County's discretionary documentary stamp tax.

She said OPPAGA plans to send a team of analysts to Palm Beach County to review the ethics commission records. The state review will likely take several weeks, and possibly several months, to complete, she said.

Palm Beach County officials said Tuesday they were puzzled by the state's audit. The county commission employs its own independent auditor to review county departments and programs.

Although functionally independent from general county government, the ethics commission and the county's Office of Inspector General are essentially county departments. Both offices rely on the county to provide office space, open bank accounts,

execute contracts and act as an employer.

The ethics commission and the inspector general post were created in 2009 as part of a sweeping ethics reform package intended to help the county shed its corruption-tainted image, after a spate of scandals that sent three county commissioners to federal prison. An amendment to the county's charter approved by an overwhelming majority of county voters in 2010 extended the offices' reach to all 38 cities and towns.

Rogers said the ethics commission's five members are scheduled to discuss the audit during a meeting Thursday.

She also said she cautioned state officials not to focus on percentages when conducting the audit.

Last year, the commission office's hotline received 560 calls, and the commission processed 84 advisory opinions, 16 sworn complaints and 33 inquiries, based on the anonymous or attributed unsworn tips and other information provided by county residents.

The ethics commission routinely dismisses complaints because it does not have the authority to investigate them, Rogers said.

"I certainly caution to look at things not necessarily through a percentage basis," Rogers said. jsorentrue@pbpost.com **FROM PALM BEACH H POST 4-03-13 by *Jennifer Sorentrue Palm Beach Post Staff Writer***

Dan Lewis
DANIEL P. LEWIS, SIOR, CCIM
561-964-0700
561-629-4999 - Cellular
Lewis
Corporate Real Estate Services

From: sender@olivesoftware.com [mailto:sender@olivesoftware.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:27 AM
To: Daniel Lewis
Subject: County ethics commission targeted for audit by state on Page 1B of Wednesday, April 03, 2013 issue of Palm Beach Post

Please see County ethics commission targeted for audit by state on Page 1B of Wednesday, April 03, 2013 issue of Palm Beach Post