



# Clerk **COMMUNICATION**

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## **Sarasota Office of Inspector General receives Accreditation, becomes one of only four Clerk and Comptroller's offices to hold this designation statewide**

SARASOTA, FL---The Sarasota County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller's Office of Inspector General (OIG) received ***Inspector General Accreditation*** on June 24, 2015 from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

This difficult accreditation is reserved for law enforcement, corrections, pretrial and inspectors general agencies. Sarasota became one of only four counties in the state of Florida who's Clerk and Comptroller offices are accredited Inspectors General, joining Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Polk counties. The assessment and accreditation was finalized by unanimous vote of the Commission, and in order to maintain this distinction, the office must be reaccredited every three years. The accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the OIG's highest standards of professionalism. During completion of requirements, Sarasota was favorably reviewed by Accreditation Assessors, showing 100% compliance with 40 required standards. The Inspector General's staff was described as a *"professional, well-trained and an enthusiastic unit that has embraced the culture of the accreditation process"*.

### **Why Accreditation?**

Accreditation offers Inspectors General with an investigations function to evaluate policies and procedures against the standards developed by the Chief Inspector General, the Inspectors General Workgroup, and Commission staff, and will significantly enhance the consistency and quality of investigations performed.

Benefits to citizens include:

- Ensures organizational and individual self-assessment, resulting in function accountability.
- Promotes congruency in protocols among offices resulting in enhanced quality of investigations.
- Enhances service to citizens by facilitating accountable, efficient, cost-effective government operations and the prevention, detection, identification, exposure and elimination of fraud, waste and abuse as allegations are investigated by accredited OIG staff.
- Achieves compliance with professionally recognized best practices and standards.
- Promotes a culture of professionalism.

### **About the Sarasota County Office of Inspector General**

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) provides independent, objective assessments, investigations and other services to assist the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners and the County Administrator in meeting their stewardship responsibility for the public assets and resources places in their trust.

### **About the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation**

The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation is an independent, tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation designated as the accrediting body for Florida law enforcement agencies and Inspectors General Offices.

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