

From the Office of Florida's Chief Financial Officer



Alex Sink

CFO Sink's Divisions Seeking to Improve Public Service By Earning Accreditation Status

As Florida's Chief Financial Officer, I have made it my priority to improve our government's accountability and efficiency. I am proud to tell you that, in pursuit of improving management, increasing accountability and enhancing public credibility, the sworn law enforcement agencies I oversee in the Department of Financial Services and the Office of Inspector General are taking the important step of seeking accreditation.

The department's Division of Insurance Fraud (DIF) has long been recognized as a national leader in the fight against insurance fraud, consistently ranking among the top states in the number of arrests and convictions and also being recognized for its numerous high-level cases – many of which have prompted new laws to better protect consumers.

The Division of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI), is the statewide agency responsible for investigating suspicious fires and explosions, and consistently has one of the nation's highest numbers of incendiary cases closed by arrest. The Office of Inspector General promotes integrity, accountability and process improvement throughout the Department and conducts internal affairs investigations for the Department.

We are now seeking to join the proud and proven ranks of accredited law enforcement agencies in Florida with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. The DIF is well into the accreditation process, and the Commission's assessors have completed their review of the agency.

From January 21 to 23, assessors examined all aspects of the Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Insurance Fraud's (FDIFS/DIF) policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. The DIF has to comply with approximately 260 standards in order to receive accredited status.

DIF's Accreditation Manager is **Captain Robert Brongel**. The DIF is led by **Colonel Vicki Cutcliffe** and is overseen by **Deputy Chief Financial Officer Brian London**.

Before joining DIF, Col. Cutcliffe served as Chief of Law Enforcement Support for the Florida Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Compliance Office, where she led the agency to full accreditation and subsequent re-accreditation by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. She is a member of the

Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Standards and Interpretation Committee.

Captain Brongel is a 30-plus year law enforcement veteran within the State of Florida and has line level and police command experience in the areas of law enforcement policy development, accreditation and staff inspections, field investigations, and uniformed patrol operations. Captain Brongel was selected and appointed to the Statewide Task Force directed by Statute to design and develop Florida's State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

DCFO London most recently served as the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of INTERPOL. He has also served with U.S. Customs Service (Homeland Security), the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CFA Assessment Team Leader was **Ms. Dianne Hill** of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office; other team members include **Lt. Sheila Rowden** of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and **Lt. Marc Hayes** of the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office.

Most of you reading this know how arduous the process of

accreditation is, so you must know how proud I am of my agencies, and how much respect I have for every agency that achieves this status. This process is a big challenge, and I commend **State Fire Marshal Director Les Hallman, BFAI Chief John Corbett, and Inspector General Bob Clift** for taking it on. The BFAI is currently in the process of hiring an accreditation manager.

The Office of Inspector General is pursuing accreditation in what is to be a whole new category of entities accredited by the CFA based on an agreement between **Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Commissioner Jerry Bailey** and the **Governor's Chief Inspector General Melinda Miguel**. Our Inspector General has been involved in developing the standards to be used in the IG accreditation process for the past two years, and the IG's Accreditation Manager, **Tracy Corbitt**, has been certified as a Commission-trained Accreditation Manager and Assessor to help prepare for the process.

We recognize that the process of accreditation serves as a benchmark to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs, services, and core mission, and we look forward to leveraging the process to improve all aspects of our service to the citizens of Florida. ●

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As a statewide elected officer of the Florida Cabinet, Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink oversees the Department of Financial Services, a multi-division state agency responsible for management of state funds and unclaimed property, assisting consumers who request information and help related to financial services, and investigating financial fraud. CFO Sink also serves as the State Fire Marshal.

“Laughter is to life what shock absorbers are to automobiles. It won't take the potholes out of the road, but it sure makes the ride smoother.”

~ Unknown

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