



Inspector General Insights

From the Clerk's July 2021 Newsletter

Background: On July 30, 1778, America's first whistleblower law was passed during the height of the American Revolution, which affirmed:

"That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or any other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge."

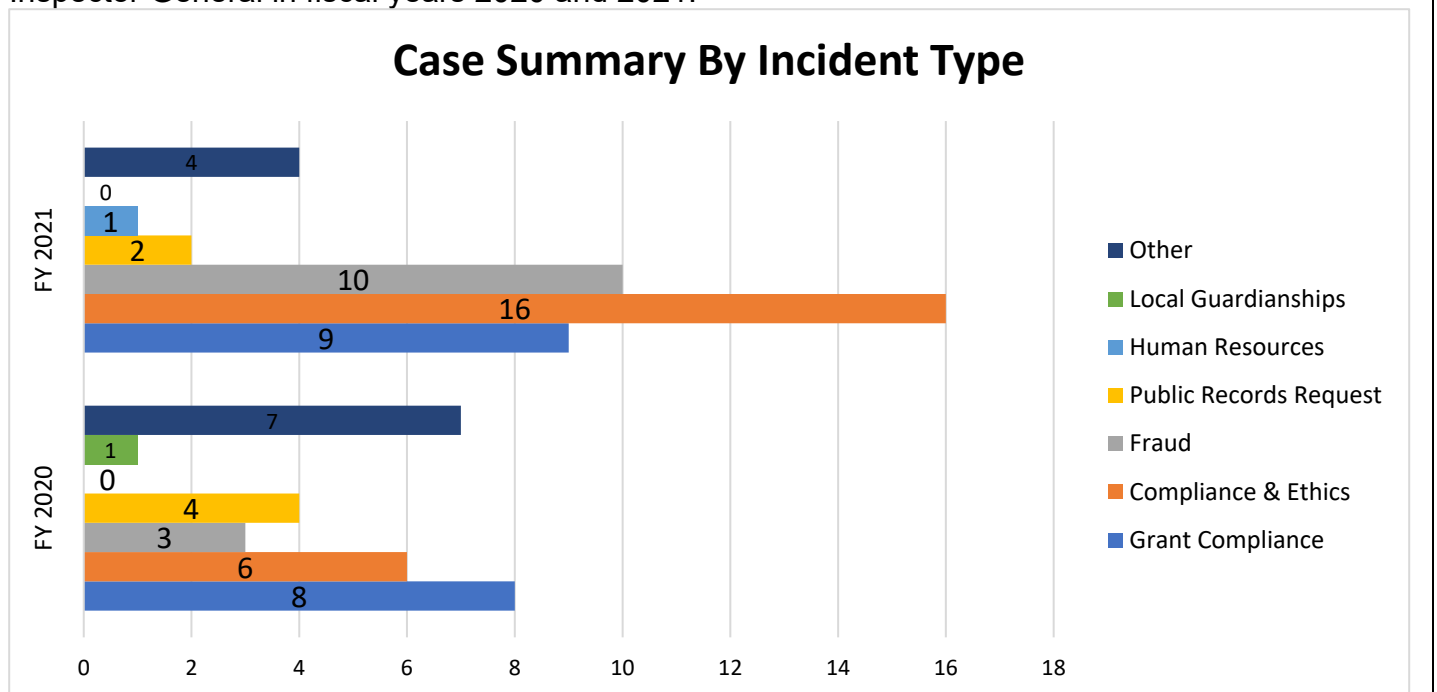
In recognition, the U.S. Senate designated July 30 as National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. This day celebrates the people who raise their voices in the name of combatting fraud, corruption, and other crimes, and commends the strength of conviction of whistleblowers.

Inspectors General, working with whistleblowers, recover billions of taxpayer dollars annually and help establish controls designed to prevent further waste, fraud, abuse, and/or corruption.

In Florida, a whistleblower who reports gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty is protected by Florida Statute §112.3187 (Whistleblower's Act).

Observations: Like many Clerks in Florida, the Collier County Clerk & Comptroller has established a confidential hotline that serves as an effective mechanism for preventing and detecting fraud, theft, or abuse of county dollars and resources carried out by any person, business, or organization that has a relationship with Collier County Government or the Collier County Clerk of Court.

Following is a chart showing the types of investigative cases that were addressed by the Office of Inspector General in fiscal years 2020 and 2021:



Over fiscal years 2020 and 2021, tips via email have been the most common, followed closely by calls to our hotline. Our cases increased by 44.83% between 2020 and 2021.

Conclusion: Any person, business, or organization that has a relationship with Collier County Government or the Collier County Clerk of Court with a concern can call our confidential 24/7 hotline at 844-ClerkIG (844-253-7544) or 239-252-8412 (English or Spanish). You may also click on the "Reporting Fraud" button located on the homepage of www.CollierClerk.com.

Total # Transactions	Amounts Audited or Reviewed	Questioned Costs	Taxpayer Savings	Description
42	N/A	N/A	N/A	Calls to our hotline in fiscal 2021