



Collier County Clerk of Courts
Office of Inspector General

Investigative Report 2022.F
International Fraud Awareness
Week / OIG Fraud Training
(November 9, 2022 Press Release)

Inspector General Insights

Background: An estimated five percent of annual revenues is wasted because of fraud, according to a study conducted by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). If that rate holds true for all organizations, then approximately \$100 million dollars (5%) of Collier County's \$1.96 billion dollar budget could be at risk annually.

On November 8, 2022 the Collier County Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing International Fraud Awareness week as a global movement to promote anti-fraud awareness and education. In this movement, partners champion the need to proactively fight the continuing increase in fraud around the world. This proclamation was accepted by the Clerk's Office of Inspector General (OIG) staff.

The Collier County Clerk of Circuit Courts and Comptroller joins hundreds of organizations who have partnered with the ACFE, the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education, for the yearly Fraud Week campaign. During Fraud Week, official supporters engage in community education and awareness initiatives to raise awareness of fraud.

In 2020, Clerk Crystal Kinzel established the [Office of Inspector General](#) to improve the effectiveness of internal controls, and preserve the public trust by providing independent, objective audits, reviews and investigations designed to add value and improve Collier County government. The Office of Inspector General is a member of the ACFE's [Law Enforcement and Government Alliance Partners](#).

Based in Austin, Texas, the ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with more than 90,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession. ACFE president and CEO Bruce Dorris, J.D., CFE, CPA, said that the support of organizations around the world helps make Fraud Week an effective tool in raising anti-fraud awareness.

"Fraud is an issue that unfortunately affects people from all walks of life around the world and it takes many forms," said Dorris. "Whether it's a trusted employee stealing from a small business, or organized rings of fraudsters targeting seniors in our community, most people know someone who's been victimized by fraud. That's why it's so important for organizations to join in this fight together to raise awareness during this week. It is a serious problem that requires a proactive approach toward preventing it, and educating people is the first step."



Objective: To increase resident awareness and reduce the risk of fraud by promoting International Fraud Awareness Week.

Recommendations & Actions: In a local campaign, the Clerk’s Office of Inspector General launched a “Blow the Whistle on Fraud” campaign to raise awareness among Collier County staff members and the public.

- More than 40 employees attended specialized training led by the OIG’s Senior Investigator, to spot the red flags of fraudulent grant applications.



- The Collier County Board of County Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing International Fraud Awareness week on November 8, 2022.



- Throughout the year, the Clerk’s Office of Inspector General provides educational articles for local organizations, and they speak to groups about fraud risks and prevention.

Conclusion: For more information about increasing awareness and reducing the risk of fraud during International Fraud Awareness Week, visit [FraudWeek.com](https://www.fraudweek.com).

Total # Employees Trained	Amounts Audited or Reviewed	Questioned Costs	Taxpayer Savings	# Observations / Recommendations
40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A