



**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION AUDITOR  
MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**COMMISSION AUDITOR'S  
INFORMATIONAL RESEARCH**

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND REHABILITATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 9, 2020**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Virtual Meeting**

Yinka Majekodunmi, CPA  
Commission Auditor

Office of the Commission Auditor (OCA)  
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**PSR Committee Meeting:  
June 9, 2020  
Research Notes**

**Item No. 3D  
File No. 201021**

**Researcher: MF Reviewer: PGE**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

OCA performed an internet search on the vendor, Cellebrite, Inc., on June 2, 2020. According to the company website, the vendor is considered a global leader in the Digital Intelligence solutions arena for both the public and private sectors. Among the services provided by Cellebrite is a tool called UFED (Universal Forensic Extraction Device) Physical Analyzer, which is used to access data and help law enforcement agencies analyze information on most iPhones. Among the technological capabilities provided by Cellebrite is the ability to unlock and access crucial data on mobile phones, including emails and deleted content.

[https://www.cellebrite.com/en/home/?utm\\_source=adwords&utm\\_medium=Paid-Search&utm\\_campaign=702076&utm\\_content=home-webpage&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIsuuU2t\\_j6QIVkIzICh1TPgP3EAAYASAAEgJW7vD\\_BwE](https://www.cellebrite.com/en/home/?utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=Paid-Search&utm_campaign=702076&utm_content=home-webpage&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIsuuU2t_j6QIVkIzICh1TPgP3EAAYASAAEgJW7vD_BwE)

In the past few years, Cellebrite has been publicly criticized for its technology services portfolio because of the associated privacy breaches. A 2019 Forbes article reported that the company's advanced unlocking and extraction services – aimed at smart phones and specifically most versions of Apple iPhones – was of concern to the public's right to privacy.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2018/02/26/government-can-access-any-apple-iphone-cellebrite/#3e241ab8667a>

Cellebrite has also been chosen as the preferred vendor of the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement Agency – via a \$30 million contract in 2019 – to unlock, access and retrieve cell phone data from smart phones worldwide. It is estimated that the company's Universal Forensic Extraction Device ranges in cost from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

<https://thenextweb.com/security/2019/09/12/ice-is-paying-an-israeli-security-company-30m-to-break-into-phones/>  
<https://www.pcmag.com/news/ice-buys-smartphone-hacking-tech-from-cellebrite>

**APPLICABLE LEGISLATION/POLICY**

**Section 2-8.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County** (Contracts and Purchases Generally) applies to all contracts for public improvements and purchases of all supplies, materials and services other than professional services and (1) requires formal sealed bids for purchases over \$250,000.00; (2) describes the circumstances under which non-competitive purchases may be approved; (3) establishes requirements for legacy purchases, designated purchases, and single vehicle leases; and (4) provides that procurement procedures shall be established by Implementing Order (I.O.) and approved by the Board.

[https://library.municode.com/fl/miami\\_-\\_dade\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_CH2AD\\_ARTIINGE\\_S2-8.1COPUGE](https://library.municode.com/fl/miami_-_dade_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH2AD_ARTIINGE_S2-8.1COPUGE)

**Implementing Order No. 3-38** sets forth the County's processes and procedures for the purchase of goods and services. The I.O. outlines: the roles and responsibilities of the Internal Services Department (ISD); the methods of purchasing goods and services; the authority to award and modify contracts; and the requirements for access contracts, emergency purchases, bid waivers, confirmation purchases and sole sources.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/aopdfdoc/aopdf/pdffiles/IO3-38.pdf>

**Resolution No. R-477-18**, adopted by the Board on May 1, 2018, directs the County Mayor to disclose to the Board the reasons why goods and services are not being procured through local businesses when the recommendation is to award a contract to a non-local vendor or to establish a prequalification pool where less than 75 percent of the pool members are local businesses.

<http://intra/gia/matter.asp?matter=180822&file=true&yearFolder=Y2018>



## **CONTRIBUTORS**

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### **The Office of the Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners**

The Office of the Commission Auditor (OCA) was established in September 2002 by Ordinance 03-2 to provide support and professional analysis of the policy, service, budgetary and operational issues before the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. The Commission Auditor's duties include reporting to the Board of County Commissioners on the fiscal operations of County departments, as well as whether the fiscal and legislative policy directions of the Commission are being efficiently and effectively implemented

These research notes, prepared in collaboration with the Miami Dade County departments as subject matter experts, is substantially less detailed in scope than an audit in accordance with the Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS). The OCA plans and performs the review to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for its findings and conclusions based on its objectives; accordingly, the OCA does not express an opinion on the data gathered by the subject matter expert(s).