

Request Code: DAPRILE02-P

Taken By: Savannah Sams

Date: 6/14/2016

Time: 12:11 (AM/PM)

**Office of Open Government
Public Records Request**

How they contacted us: Phone - 772-223-4747

Requestor's Name: Lucas Daprile

Phone/email/fax: lucas.daprile@tcpalm.com

Requested Document(s): Any/all CIG reports
regarding G4S - He referenced
the attached article

Time frame: _____

Circle one: EOG

Agency Request

Agency Referral

If this is an agency request/referral fill out the following:

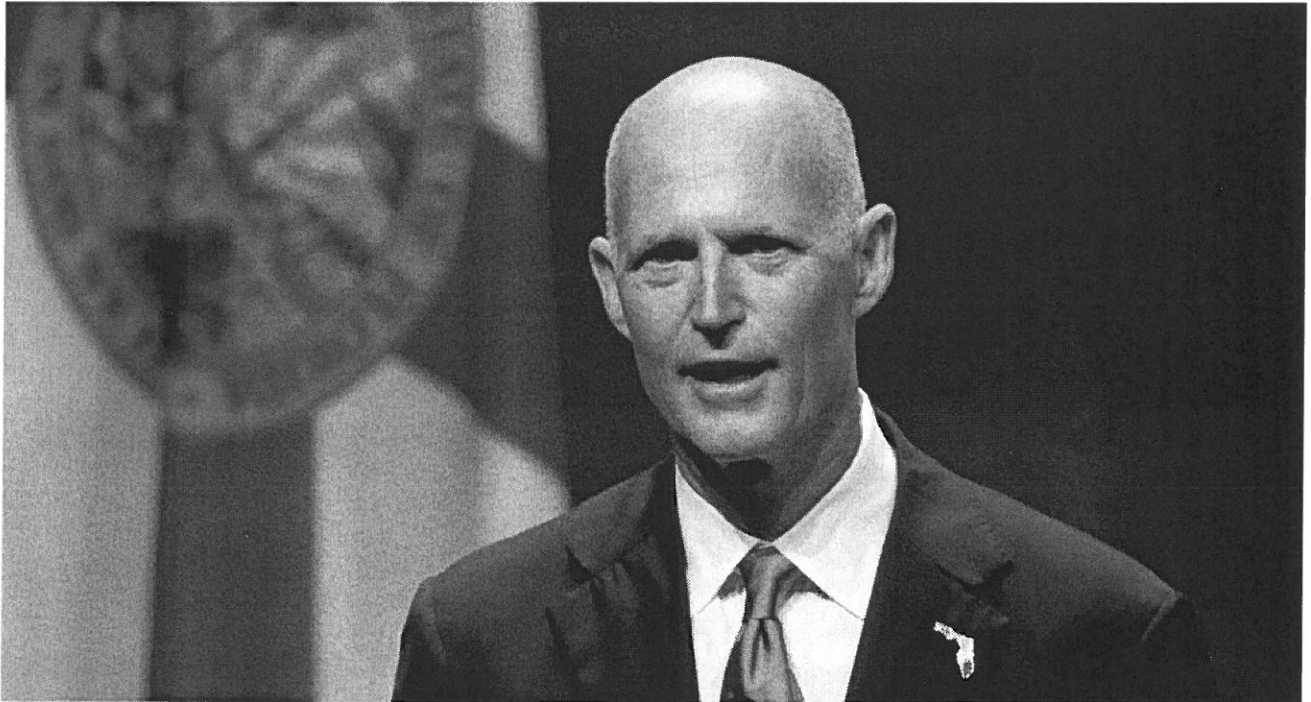
Agency to contact: _____

Contact Information: _____

Notes:

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Governor Rick Scott. | AP Photo/John Raoux

State inspector general widens Broward Health investigation

Inquiry focuses on contract procurement

By **CHRISTINE SEXTON** | 06/01/16 05:31 AM EDT

TALLAHASSEE — The turmoil that has engulfed Broward Health, also known as the North Broward Hospital District, appears to be growing.

Erin Romeiser — an investigations manager for Gov. Rick Scott's office of the chief inspector general — is requesting that the hospital district provide the state with all its policies and procedures related to contract procurement for the last three years.

The email, addressed to North Broward Hospital District general counsel Lynn Barrett and chief internal auditor Vinnette Hall, also requested that the district provide all documentation regarding the handling and resolution of complaints made over the last

three years against members who serve on the district's governing board.

The state's growing request for information comes at the same time when North Broward Hospital District chief compliance and privacy officer Donna Lewis is investigating an anonymous complaint made against board member Christopher Ure for his involvement in a \$300,000 contract with a firm known as Diversified.

Ure chaired a subcommittee last winter that recommended that the board hire Diversified to help find a new chief executive officer for the district, which has oversight over five South Florida hospitals, three outpatient centers and three urgent care facilities. Its former CEO, Nabil El Sanadi, committed suicide in January.

Specifically, Ure was accused of "overstepping" his role as commissioner and "perform(ing) the duties of Broward Health staff," which is illegal under changes that were made to the North Broward Hospital District's charter in 2007.

It's the same accusation that was leveled against David Di Pietro, the former chairman of the North Broward Hospital District, who was removed from his post by Scott.

POLITICO Florida made a public records request for the complaint at the beginning of May but was told by spokeswoman Daniella Aird that the complaint was made anonymously by phone.

Aird said that the district's compliance department was reviewing the complaint and that Lewis, the compliance officer, would provide a report on it at the next public board meeting. However, Lewis had not completed the investigation and the issue was not discussed at the May 26 board meeting, which Lewis did not attend.

Lewis declined to be interviewed by POLITICO Florida at her Fort Lauderdale office.

Ure told POLITICO Florida late Tuesday night that the investigation against him is pending. He said he was slated to meet with Lewis before last week's board meeting but was not able to keep the appointment, and that he does plan on meeting with Lewis.

When told of the inspector general's request, Ure said: "It's important to know how the district has conducted investigations of complaints against commissioner in the past. It would be my hope that whatever the procedure and process was, that they have been consistent with respect to any investigation of me."

Ure also said he thinks the governor's office should have access to complaints against commissioners because only the governor can remove a commissioner from the board.

"I don't care if the resolution is, 'We got the complaint, there is not merit, here is the investigation and you can agree or disagree Mr. Governor or Mrs. Governor,'" Ure said. "Because at the end of the day they are the one with purview."

The state's push for more information from the district also comes on the heels of a May 4 request from attorney Scott Newton that the district provide him a copy of its disclosure logs and complaints. Newton is with Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, which is helping to act as an outside watchdog for the district.

The federal government required the district to retain an independent review organization as part of the \$70 million agreement to settle allegations of Medicaid and Medicare fraud. Newton wrote a letter to North Broward Hospital District commissioners on May 10, advising of a "predictable pattern of potentially illegal conduct."

Meanwhile, Romeiser's letter requests that the district provide the state with a copy of a 2015 internal audit that was conducted on the security company G4S.

Scott initially ordered his inspector general, Melinda Miguel, to investigate the North Broward Hospital District following the January suicide of El Sanadi, who shot himself in a bathroom in his South Florida condominium, just weeks after undergoing open heart surgery.

Miguel asked the board to provide her office information on a \$71 million no-bid advertising contract with Fort Lauderdale-based Zimmerman Advertising Agency, and contracts involving Emcare, an emergency-room staffing company whose contract the board of commissioners renewed in October; Premier Inc., a group-purchasing organization that aims to lower health care costs by letting hospitals pool their purchasing power to leverage discounts; and MedAssets, a management company that handles the district's construction projects.

She also asked for contracts with Kenneth Herskowitz, chief of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Broward Health Medical Center; Zachariah Zachariah, a prominent South Florida physician and former chairman of the Florida Board of Medicine and a Republican fundraiser; and the G4S security company.

Miguel asked Scott in March to remove two North Broward Hospital District commissioners he appointed — DiPietro and Darryl Wright — accusing them of interfering with her investigation as well as violating the 2007 law that precludes commissioners from interfering with board district staff.

Di Pietro, a rising star in Broward County Republican circles, is the husband of County Judge Nina Weatherly Di Pietro, who collected significant campaign donations from health care providers who do business with Broward Health and by their families as companies that were connected to the Zimmerman agency.

Di Pietro successfully sued Scott, saying he didn't have the authority to remove him from the board, but he resigned days later as Scott's office prepared to appeal the decision.