



# Inspector General

## **2024-0006-INVI-P – ALLEGATIONS OF FORGERY AND SECURITY VIOLATIONS RELATED TO THE SECURITY OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII).**

### **Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) “Standards of Conduct” and “Privacy” Policies. **Substantiated****

On December 1, 2023, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint that an employee forged the signatures of potential future volunteers on official government forms used to obtain Congressional Identification (ID) badges.

The OIG initiated an investigation into potential criminal violations and multiple AOC policies, which substantiated the employee had forged the signatures of volunteers on official government forms, including a Request for Criminal History Records and an ID Request-118th Congress, both belonging to Congressional agencies outside of the AOC. The OIG identified approximately 20 instances of forged handwritten or unauthorized digital signatures on the previously processed government forms. The investigation discovered that if the potential volunteer was unable to successfully sign one or both forms, the employee (without their knowledge or permission) signed on the potential volunteer’s behalf, either with ink or digitally. They then submitted the forms to the AOC badging portal for continued processing. When presented with evidence, the employee admitted to adding the applicant’s signatures to the documents.

In addition to forgery, the employee committed violations of AOC policy governing PII while coordinating the badging process for prospective volunteers. While working from home, the employee utilized their AOC mobile device to take photos of the government documents containing PII, e-mailed them to their aoc.gov email account and then uploaded them to the AOC badging portal.

The evidence was presented to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, which declined to prosecute the employee based on the availability of administrative remedies to the AOC.

**Final Management Action:** The OIG substantiated that the employee violated multiple AOC policies and the administrative violations were submitted to the Architect of the Capitol for action deemed appropriate, if any, and the affected Congressional agencies were notified. On September 3, 2024, the OIG was notified that the employee received a one day work suspension for their actions. The case is closed.