



Inspector General

2023-0016-INVI-P - Theft of Government Property

Former Employee: Suspected Violation of the AOC “Standards of Conduct” policy and Title 18 U.S. Code § 641 Public money, property, or records. Substantiated

On September 19, 2023, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) received an allegation regarding now former AOC employee Eric Eugene Cavalier, UT-17, Electrician Supervisor, Construction Branch, Office of the Chief Engineer. The allegation stated that Cavalier had been illegally taking copper materials from the AOC and selling them to various scrap metal facilities in Maryland for personal profit.

The OIG, in conjunction with the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), initiated an investigation into potential violations of AOC policy, state, and federal law, to include Title 18 U.S. Code § 641 Public money, property, or records (18 U.S.C. § 641).

The OIG obtained documentary evidence, video surveillance and detailed purchase history reports from various metal recycling facilities within the surrounding areas. The reports documented all copper sales made by Cavalier between September 24, 2020, and September 13, 2023. During this period, Cavalier completed 65 transactions at one company totaling \$62,887.25, primarily involving insulated and bare bright copper wire. One transaction indicated he had sold copper piping. Evidence obtained from a second recycling company revealed additional sales of copper materials by Cavalier between 2015 and 2023. Cavalier completed 17 transactions at the second company totaling \$8,786.25.

Testimonial evidence, along with Cavalier's own admission, confirmed that he had unlawfully taken copper wire and other materials from the AOC and sold them to scrap metal facilities, resulting in a personal profit of \$73,298.50.

The OIG and CCSO executed a consensual search of Cavaliers' vehicles, property and garage, during which agents located both insulated and bare bright copper wire, electrical materials, and tools necessary to strip the copper wire. Cavalier resigned from the AOC on February 24, 2024, following his interactions with the OIG and CCSO.

The AOC OIG referred the matter to the United States Attorney's Office in Greenbelt, Maryland, for prosecutorial consideration, which opened a case and ultimately charged Cavalier with eight counts of violations of 18 U.S.C. § 641. On February 18, 2025, Cavalier pled guilty to one count of 18 U.S.C. § 641 for knowingly and unlawfully misappropriating government property. Cavalier has been mandated to pay restitution to the AOC, in the amount of \$73,298.50 and formal sentencing will be held on March 12, 2025.

Final Management Action:

The OIG substantiated the administrative violation against Cavalier. The case is closed.