



Inspector General

2024-0005-INVI-P — Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Fraud

Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) “Standards of Conduct,” “Government Ethics” and “AOC IT Resources and De Minimis Use” policies, and the AOC Information Technology System Rules of Behavior.

Substantiated

Violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1344 Bank Fraud. Substantiated

In June 2023, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated a proactive investigation (2023-0003-INVPRO-P) to review AOC employees’ participation in the Small Business Administration’s (SBA) PPP and EIDL programs to determine whether the employees who received PPP or EIDL funds were entitled to the funds and were in compliance with AOC policy in receiving the funds, as well as to determine if any AOC employees were victims of identity theft.

That review identified now former AOC employee, Ms. Jamie Latoya Morton, GS-13, Contract Specialist, Supplies and Services Branch, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, as an individual who allegedly received PPP and EIDL funds and met criteria identified by the AOC OIG for potential fraud. The AOC OIG initiated this spin-off investigation and jointly investigated potential violations of AOC policy and criminal law with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The matter was ultimately referred to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, which opened a case to review the matter (United States of America v. Jamie Morton 1:25-cr-00040-LMB).

The investigation determined that Morton submitted 32 separate applications to the SBA’s PPP and EIDL programs for various businesses held in her and her juvenile child’s name, not all of which were approved and funded. Morton had not reported any outside employment to the AOC nor reported earnings from her claimed businesses to her state of residence. Approximately half of the applications were submitted utilizing the AOC-owned laptop issued to Morton and the AOC’s IP address.

Although Morton agreed to all terms and conditions within the loan applications, and certified the information provided by her in the applications to be true and correct, Morton provided differing and false information within each loan application. Additionally, Morton used funds received from PPP loans for unauthorized personal expenses,¹ including lavish travel and the purchase

¹ <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/economic-injury-disaster-loans#use-of-proceeds>; <https://www.sba.gov/partners/lenders/7a-loan-program/terms-conditions-eligibility>; 15 U.S.C. § 636 - Additional powers, Small Business Administration (SBA Act)



of luxury goods. Between 2020 and 2022, Morton made purchases at a Maserati dealership, Chanel, Gucci, Christian Dior and Yves St. Laurent.

Morton resigned from her position at the AOC in June 2024, following an interview with Agents, and obtained employment at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Final Management Action: On April 8, 2025, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Morton pled guilty to one count of Bank Fraud, a violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1344. The OIG substantiated multiple violations of AOC policy by Morton which were submitted to the Architect of the Capitol for its awareness. Additionally, the OIG notified the GAO OIG of the matter. The final amounts of restitution and asset forfeiture are pending. Morton's sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 8, 2025, at which time a Supplemental Report of Investigation will be provided to AOC management. The case is closed.