



Inspector General

2025-0014-INV1-P – Identity Theft

Suspected Violations of 18 United States Code § 1028 - Fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents, authentication features, and information, 18 U.S.C. § 1343 - Fraud by wire, radio, or television and 18 U.S.C. § 1344 - Bank fraud.

On May 13, 2025, an Architect of the Capitol (AOC) employee contacted the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) to report fraudulent redirection of their payroll information.

After not receiving their direct deposit on schedule, the employee reviewed their Employee Personal Page through the National Finance Center's website and found their banking information had been changed. Follow up with the Human Capital Management Division (HCMD), Payroll and Processing Branch (PPB), confirmed that a request had been submitted via email to change their direct deposit information.

An investigation by the OIG confirmed an unknown individual, not the impacted AOC Employee, sent an email to an AOC employee within PPB requesting to update their direct deposit information. Multiple email communications were exchanged that contained bank account numbers and routing information. The name associated with the email address in the "From" line was a current AOC employee; however, the requests originated from two separate email addresses and neither belonged to the employee's aoc.gov email account. PPB made the requested changes and funds were rerouted. Once the employee realized funds were missing and notified HCMD, AOC ensured their account information was corrected, and the amount of missing funds was deposited into the correct account.

Investigative efforts and legal process issued by the OIG identified the email account owners and bank account owners associated with the accounts provided to PPB. Two of the accounts identified displayed indicators of fraudulent activity, including masked IP addresses, and additional attempts for similar fraudulent transactions within the United States and the United Kingdom.

The OIG provided all information obtained to multiple law enforcement agencies, including a Financial Crimes Task Force tasked with investigating international fraud.

Final Management Action: OIG's investigation into the matter is closed. In the event either individual identified by the OIG is prosecuted, a supplemental Report of Investigation will be issued to provide updated information.