

UPDATED POST FOR OVERSIGHT.GOV

2018-0021-INVI-P – Theft of Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Property by an AOC Employee: Substantiated

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation based on information received from an AOC supervisor. The supervisor reported that a private citizen/spouse of an AOC employee contacted them to report that an AOC employee had used their AOC issued government purchase card to acquire tools for the private citizen/spouse as a gift. They reported the situation so that they could return the tools to the AOC.

The OIG met with the AOC supervisor and private citizen/spouse of the AOC employee and took possession of the AOC property. The property consisted of a super winch (\$1,100), wheeled battery charger/starter (\$260), flex power pack (\$100), DeWalt impact driver (\$330), a DeWalt drill (\$50), and an aluminum tri-fold ramp system (\$170). The OIG investigation substantiated, through testimony and receipt of physical evidence, that the AOC employee violated AOC Orders and policies when they procured tools through the use of their AOC issued government purchase card and provided the AOC tools to their spouse as a gift. The estimated value of the AOC property is \$2,010.

The case was briefed to the Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), United States Attorney Office (USAO), Washington, DC. The AUSA declined to pursue criminal charges against the AOC employee due to the operational tempo of the USAO and the low value loss to the U.S. Government. The AUSA opined the AOC could take any administrative action deemed appropriate.

Along with the documentation and evidence gathered during the investigation the AOC OIG made the following determinations:

1. The AOC employee violated AOC Order 38-1, "Government Ethics," Section A (Policy), 4.1, dated November 1, 2018, by failing to place loyalty to the United States, Congress, the AOC, and the law over private gain or personal interest when they stole AOC property. **(Substantiated)**
2. The AOC employee violated AOC Order 752-2, "Standards of Conduct," Section B (Standards of Conduct) dated April 25, 2014; 1.1. (Mission to serve and exemplary behavior); 2. (Prohibited Activities and Conduct); 2.5 (Removal of property without permission); 2.6. (Commit theft of government property); 2.15. (Prohibited purchase and use of AOC Government Purchase Card); and 2.16 (Use AOC tools for personal use), dated April 25, 2014, when they engaged in conduct that brought discredit upon the agency and was unbecoming of an AOC employee; by removing AOC equipment without first obtaining prior written permission; and committing apparent theft. **(Substantiated)**

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3. The AOC employee violated AOC Order 34-45, "Personal Property Manual", Chapter 1, (Property Management Roles and Responsibilities), 1.4.3 and Chapter 5 (Utilization) 5.2, dated March 11, 2016, when they failed to request the issuance of an official government property pass and custody receipts and removing government property without these passes for non-official purposes. **(Substantiated)**

Final Management Action: The AOC employee submitted their resignation and ended employment with AOC, effective February 7, 2019, and did not face reprimand prior to resignation. A review of the AOC Employee's Notification of Personnel Action (SF 50) revealed the resignation was coded to indicate the AOC employee resigned after receiving notice of proposed or pending adverse action based in whole or in part on employee misconduct. The OIG recovered the AOC property, valued at \$2,010. The investigation has been closed.