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### **2020-0003-INVI-P – Suspected Wasteful Spending: Substantiated – Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Government Purchase Card Orders and Policies: Not Substantiated**

The AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a hotline complaint from an individual who requested confidentiality. The confidential reporter alleged that in September 2018, an AOC manager purchased three flat pack utility carts with end-of-year funds. These utility carts were in addition to several utility carts already on hand, and had not been requested by staff for the betterment of their duties. After purchase, these utility carts remained for greater than a year, unassembled, and not in service. The confidential reporter believed the purchase and subsequent nonuse of these utility carts for over a year gave the impression that they were not needed and, therefore, AOC funds were wastefully spent.

This investigation substantiated that the purchase of the three utility carts was wasteful. In September 2018, the AOC manager approved the purchase of three flat pack utility carts at \$278.90 each, totaling \$836.70. After receiving the utility carts, they were stored for several months before the AOC manager attempted to assemble one of them, only to discover it was unstable. The AOC manager made a decision not to assemble the other two utility carts until a solution could be found to make them stable and usable. As of March 19, 2020, the first utility cart had not been fully assembled and the other two utility carts were still in their shipping boxes.

The OIG acknowledged that the purchase of the three flat pack utility carts were within the AOC manager's purchase authority and the guidelines for purchasing cited in AOC Orders. However, because the purchased utility carts were not fulfilling the staff's need, not fully assembled, remained in the box, and were not placed into service months after acquisition, the appearance exists that the purchase was wasteful.

In August 2019, the OIG substantiated wasteful spending against the same AOC manager in OIG investigation AOC OIG 2019-0013-INVI-P for purchasing additional collection/shred containers at a cost of \$2,943.25 with end-of-year funds through a contract which was already in place that provided for such containers. AOC management took no formal disciplinary action against the AOC manager though they did note discussing the OIG report with the AOC manager. They determined the AOC manager's intent was to improve customer service and increase work efficiency with no comment regarding wasteful spending of the tax payer's dollars.

**Final Management Action:** The investigation is closed pending management action.