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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2021-0010-INVI-P – Workplace Violence: Not Substantiated; Standards of Conduct: Not Substantiated.

On January 25, 2021, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), Office of Inspector General (OIG) was contacted by a senior staff member, Employee and Labor Relations Branch, Human Capital Management Division, who advised the OIG that an AOC employee reported suspected workplace violence and a security concern.

The complainant alleged that on January 13, 2021, while supporting the installation of a security fence around the perimeter at the Capitol complex, they overheard another AOC employee making a violent statement towards members of Congress. According to the complainant, the AOC employee stated, “they should have let the mob kill all of them - Mitch McConnell; Nancy Pelosi; Chuck Schumer and Mike Pence, they are all traitors.” The complainant felt the AOC employee’s comment was inappropriate and due to the heightened security posture on the Capitol complex following the incident that occurred on January 6, 2021, they followed the mantra, “See Something, Say Something” as the reason for reporting the comment.

The OIG referred this case to the Department of Justice (DOJ). The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office declined to pursue the complaint due to lack of available resources as a result of the events that took place at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Columbia, declined to prosecute the AOC employee. No decision on the merits of the allegation were made by the DOJ. The OIG then investigated the allegations for violation of administrative polices governing work place violence and standards of conduct.

The investigation did not substantiate the allegation. Through witness testimony there was insufficient evidence to corroborate or verify the allegation that the AOC employee made a violent statement towards members of Congress. One witness, who the complainant believed overheard the comment, did not recall the conversation nor hear the AOC employee make the alleged violent statement. The OIG interviewed the AOC employee, who denied making any threats or derogatory statements towards members of Congress. Additional interviews regarding the AOC employee’s character indicated the AOC employee always presented themselves professionally and has never expressed negative comments about the government or members of Congress at work or in his social media presence.

Final Management Action: This investigation is closed.