



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2021-0012-INVI-P – Theft of AOC Property: Substantiated.

On October 7, 2020, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint from an AOC manager, concerning the theft of AOC property. According to the AOC manager there were two separate incidents of theft, which occurred in September 2020. The missing AOC property consisted of gardening equipment (chainsaws, edging tools, blower backpacks and trimmers), valued at approximately \$8,965.34. Both thefts were reported to and investigated by the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP).

The USCP's first investigation #20139085, determined that between September 21, 2020 and September 22, 2020, person(s) unknown removed gardening equipment consisting of edging tools, blower backpacks and trimmers from a storage container. The second USCP investigation #20139082 determined that between September 28, 2020 and September 29, 2020, person(s) unknown cut a padlock on a pedestrian gate, gained access to a vehicle storage area and stole eight chainsaws from an AOC tree service vehicle.

Agent's Comment: The USCP have the primary Law Enforcement jurisdiction for crimes (property and crimes against persons) that occur on the Capitol complex. Delay in the AOC OIG conducting their portion of the investigation was to allow the USCP to conduct and finish their investigations.

The USCP investigations did not identify a suspect(s) and the stolen property was not recovered. There are no intrusion alarm systems or video surveillance cameras covering the area where the thefts occurred, so the USCP were not able to identify the person(s), who cut the padlock on the pedestrian gate, accessed the area and removed the property.

The OIG determined that in March 2021, an annual inventory was conducted. During the inventory three pieces of gardening equipment, an Echo Gas Edger and two Echo Edger Sticks, which were reported stolen in September 2020, were discovered in a storage container. An adjustment was made to the inventory and the three pieces of gardening equipment, valued at \$844.00, were added back to the property book and put back into the inventory.

Based on the results of the USCP investigations and the measure of time before it was provided to the AOC OIG, we determined that furtherance of this investigation would be of little or no value

Final Management Action: This investigation is closed.