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# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

*2022-0003-INVI-P – Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Supervisor threatened a subordinate employee and misused AOC issued Information Technology Division (ITD) resources to portray nudity.*

**Suspected Violations of the AOC “Standards of Conduct,” “Violence in the Workplace,” “AOC Information Technology (IT) Resources and De Minimis Use,” “Government Ethics” and “Absence and Leave” Policies; and the “AOC IT System Rules of Behavior” **Substantiated.****

On January 21, 2022, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a referral from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Dispute Resolution (DI/DR). DI/DR reported that during the course of a bullying and sexual harassment investigation, it was alleged that a supervisor within the Senate Office Buildings misused AOC ITD resources and equipment and made threats to their subordinate employees.

Interviews conducted by DI/DR alleged that the supervisor had created numerous digitally edited images by adding AOC employees’ pictures to images that ranged from inappropriate to sexually explicit. At least one employee stated that the supervisor kept pornographic/explicit photos and videos<sup>1</sup> on their AOC-issued iPhone and others believed that the supervisor created them using their AOC office desktop computer. The DI/DR provided the OIG with four specific images for reference; an image of a nude man superimposed with the face of an AOC employee sitting nude next to Senator Bernie Sanders, an image of the same AOC employee being driven over by a pick-up truck, and two images of former President Donald Trump. It was also reported that the supervisor frequently shouted at the employees, used profanity toward them and threatened them.

The OIG determined through documentary evidence that multiple inappropriate memes and images had been sent from the supervisor’s personal email address to their AOC email address. Documentary evidence also revealed that the supervisor had inappropriately utilized sick leave to take a family member to a legal appointment.

Digital forensic evidence obtained from the AOC desktop computer utilized by the supervisor revealed multiple images of females in lingerie, images of AOC employees, nude images of males and females and explicit digitally altered images within the specific AOC User Account. The original photograph of the AOC employee that had been altered and used to create the images provided by the DI/DR was also obtained from the supervisor’s User Account. An additional digital forensic examination of the AOC iPhone issued to the supervisor revealed images of AOC employees, a photo towards an unknown residence taken through an archery scope as well as photos of political figures, including a photo of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi exiting the Russell Senate Office Building.

The OIG confirmed through testimonial evidence that the supervisor used AOC owned ITD equipment to alter the images of AOC employees. They utilized their personal mobile phone to obtain images from the internet, emailed them to their AOC.gov email address, altered the images on the AOC desktop computer and then printed them using AOC printers. The supervisor admitted to creating the two previously noted images of their subordinate, one with the AOC employee sitting nude next to Senator Sanders and the second with the AOC

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<sup>1</sup> None of the images obtained by the OIG contained individuals who appeared to be underage.



# Investigative Summary

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employee driven over by the pick-up truck. The supervisor also printed and displayed an image disparaging a subordinate Hispanic employee because the supervisor thought it was humorous. Many of the images were then displayed in the office. The supervisor stated they were unaware that the images could be found offensive and created the images to bring humor to the office.

The supervisor denied ever utilizing AOC-owned equipment to search for sexually explicit images or to back up their personal mobile device; however, admitted to “possibly” charging their personal mobile device using the AOC desktop a few years ago. They could provide no explanation as to how the explicit photos could have transferred from their personal mobile phone to their AOC User Account.<sup>2</sup>

The supervisor denied frequently shouting at employees, using profanity toward them or threatening them. They later admitted to telling a subordinate employee, “I’m going to beat your ass” during a verbal disagreement that took place over the approval of overtime.

The DI/DR has an ongoing investigation into the alleged violations of the AOC Workplace Anti-Harassment Policy, which will be adjudicated separately.

**Final Management Action:** The OIG substantiated that the AOC employee violated multiple AOC policies when they altered and created images of AOC employees using AOC owned ITD equipment, displayed them in the office, transmitted inappropriate images from a personal account to their AOC email account, misused sick leave and threatened violence to a subordinate employee during a verbal disagreement. The administrative violations were submitted to the jurisdiction for action deemed appropriate, if any. The case is closed and management action is pending.

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<sup>2</sup> The supervisor’s personal phone is a Samsung, which can charge and transfer files via a USB cable connected to a computer.