



# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

## *2022-0004-INVI-P – Alleged favoritism towards AOC Construction Contractors*

### **Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) “Government Ethics,” “Standards for Conduct,” and the “Contracting Manual” Not Substantiated**

On October 15, 2021, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received an anonymous OIG Hotline complaint asserting that AOC Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE) supervisors were showing favoritism towards Clark Construction and The Christman Company, a joint venture, the construction group working on the Cannon House Office Building Renewal (CHOBBr) Project, as the construction manager as constructor (CMc).

The complainant reported that AOC executives assigned to the project were listening to the contractors instead of AOC government employees regarding the construction, engineering, and architecture of the project. The complainant also alleged wasteful spending, information not being properly shared, a high turnover rate of employees and improper analysis of the project. Finally, the complainant mentioned their employment was in jeopardy as they were asked to do things that were not contractually acceptable.

The complainant did not provide contact information and stated these issues began on the first day of the CHOBBr Project. The complainant identified two Contracting Officer’s Representatives from the OCE, the AOC jurisdiction primarily responsible for the CHOBBr Project, as witnesses to these allegations.

The OIG’s investigation focused solely on violations of law and AOC policies pertaining to Standards of Conduct, Government Ethics, and violations of the Contracting Manual, and not interoffice relationships and management styles. The OIG’s investigation did not substantiate the allegations.

During the investigation, we conducted interviews and document analysis. Some individuals we interviewed wished to keep their identity confidential. These confidential sources stated they were in fear of retaliation and reprisal as many of their positions were funded exclusively through CHOBBr Project appropriations. Many interviewees noted interoffice relationship and management issues not with the CMc, but with the construction manager as agent (CMa), which is contracted through a joint venture between McDonough Bolyard Peck and Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations and Maintenance.

**Agent’s Comment:** Although we did not identify criminality or policy violations, we did observe a culture of mistrust and fear that could be detrimental to productivity and the morale of the workforce.

**Final Management Action:** The investigation is closed.