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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2022-0009-INVI-P – Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Supervisor Accusations of Abuse of Power, Mismanagement and Reprisal - **Not Substantiated**

Suspected Violations of the AOC “Standards of Conduct” and “Authorities and Responsibilities of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Cooperation of AOC Employees” policies. **Not Substantiated.**

On April 25, 2022, the AOC OIG received a complaint from former employee Mr. Jorge Torres-Velez, GS-12, Restaurant Contract Manager, Capitol Visitor Center (CVC). Torres-Velez reported that his supervisor had abused their power and mismanaged employees, which required Torres-Velez to complete work in excess of his job description. Torres-Velez further alleged he was often tasked with work outside of normal business hours and that he was denied the ability to return his AOC issued electronic devices prior to retirement. Torres-Velez felt that he had been treated different by CVC Management due to bringing multiple complaints to the OIG during his career.

The OIG initiated an investigation into the complaints, which revealed the allegations arose around the time the AOC announced the CVC and CVC Restaurant would be re-opening following a closure during the COVID-19 pandemic. Testimonial and documentary evidence confirmed that Torres-Velez was treated no differently than other CVC employees during that time frame. He was afforded the same opportunities to telework and seek a reasonable accommodation if he felt necessary. Additionally, the investigation revealed that Torres-Velez proactively decided to spend his last five or six weeks of employment preparing to retire. He wanted to turn in his AOC-issued phone and laptop over a month before his last day and anticipated remaining accessible only by personal mobile device.

The OIG found no validity to the claims made by Torres-Velez, and his past complaints filed with the OIG did not have investigative merit or were not substantiated. Torres-Velez retired from the AOC on April 30, 2022.

Final Management Action: The OIG did not substantiate the allegations. The case is closed.