



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2022-0010-INVI-P – Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Employee Alleged Unauthorized Use of AOC Motor Vehicle

Suspected Violations of AOC Order 34-2 “Fleet Management,” AOC Order 752-2 “Standards of Conduct,” and AOC Order 38-1, “Government Ethics.” **Substantiated.**

On April 28, 2022, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG), received a complaint from an AOC Supervisor regarding a photo of a white, AOC Dodge Caravan associated with the Capitol Power Plant, parked and possibly unoccupied on Iverson Street in Temple Hills, Maryland. The AOC Supervisor sent a follow up email to the OIG containing a photo of the vehicle’s license plate: AOC 015P. Further investigation revealed that the vehicle in the photograph belonged to the Capitol Power Plant Fleet Management and that the vehicle was typically used by two Capitol Power Plant employees for administrative purposes.

The OIG was able to determine through testimonial evidence that the vehicle was last driven on April 27, 2022, by an AOC employee of the Capitol Power Plant. The OIG subsequently interviewed the employee who admittedly took the vehicle on the day the photograph was taken and without prior authorization from their supervisor. The employee stated they took the vehicle to a car wash in Temple Hills, Maryland, where they alleged to have obtained an estimate for detailing services for the AOC vehicle. The car wash was over six miles from their office with many other potential sources for vehicle detailing within a closer proximity. The employee indicated the vehicle had not been cleaned in approximately three years. However, the employee was unable to provide documentation of the estimate provided by the car wash, and the employee’s supervisor confirmed never receiving a request to use the vehicle nor a copy of an estimate for detailing services.

Upon leaving the car wash, the employee admittedly drove the AOC vehicle towards a fast-food restaurant located at the Iverson Mall for lunch. However, during their course of travel, the employee encountered a two-vehicle accident in which they were not involved. The employee assisted the occupants by calling for emergency personnel to respond to the scene, confirming what was depicted in the photograph provided by the AOC Supervisor. The OIG, through further investigative efforts, confirmed through the employee’s AOC issued cell phone outgoing call logs that the employee called for emergency services on April 27, 2022. Further, testimonial evidence revealed that the employee admittedly did not complete an Operational Log and Vehicle Mileage report. Therefore, the employee violated AOC Order 34-2, Fleet Management policy.



Investigative Summary

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The availability of multiple alternative vehicle detail options closer to the Capitol Power Plant and the employees use of a site over six miles away with no predetermined contract or reasoning is another example of waste and mismanagement of the AOC's fleet management that requires supervisor oversight and controls. A total of \$61.62 are funds put to better use for mileage and salary for this event. Calculations were based on applicable 2022 mileage rates¹ and the employee's hourly pay rate for Pay Period 09 – April 24, 2022, to May 7, 2022.

Final Management Action: On February 21, 2023, the AOC provided a Management Response dated February 7, 2023, advising that management action was taken, and that the AOC employee received an official reprimand for the violations identified in this summary report. The case is closed.

¹ <https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/standard-mileage-rates>