



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2022-0018-INVI-P – Alleged Theft of Government Property by Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Employee

Suspected Violations of the DC Code – Title 22-3211 – Theft, and 18 U.S.C. § 641 - Public money, property or records. **Not Substantiated.**

Suspected Violations of the AOC “Standards of Conduct” Policy and “Ethics” Policy. **Substantiated.**

On August 31, 2022, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint from a Senate Office Buildings supervisor. The supervisor reported that an employee alleged that another employee in the Upholstery Branch, Senate Office Buildings, was ordering and taking home materials from the shop.

The investigation disclosed that the Upholstery Branch had ordered 52 Razer Edge drapery scissors since 2016, including 20 scissors requested by the suspect employee in 2021, when the U.S. Capitol and supporting buildings on the campus were closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. When another supervisor visited the Upholstery Branch, they found only two pairs of scissors remaining. The Upholstery Branch also ordered 31 Rowenta steam irons since 2008, including 12 since 2015. Prior to the complaint, the suspect employee requested an additional six irons. When the supervisor visited the Upholstery Branch, they observed two irons in boxes in a cabinet near the suspect employee’s workstation and only two others that appeared to be in working order.

When interviewed by the OIG, another employee in the Upholstery Branch reported that the suspect employee carried a large duffle type bag and a book bag to work daily. The employee believed the suspect employee had been taking scraps of material and other supplies from his workspace.

During an interview, the suspect employee admitted to operating an upholstery business from their home. The employee said they were not aware that they needed authorization from AOC for outside employment. The suspect employee denied stealing any government equipment or property from the Upholstery Branch. The suspect employee stated there was no accountability for the items once they were put out for use. The suspect employee admitted to making a duffle bag from unused outdated leather and taking the bag for personal use. The suspect employee stated their supervisor had approved of them taking the leather for that purpose. Further investigation showed the suspect employee was disciplined by their supervisor in 2021 for making a bag from unusable leather and removing the item from the Upholstery Branch.

The OIG determined that the suspect employee did not complete a “Notice of Outside Employment or Self-Employment Form” with the AOC, as required and admitted to conducting outside employment for several years. The investigation also determined that the suspect employee violated Standards of



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Conduct policy by deceptively stating their former supervisor authorized them to take scrap leather material. The OIG could not determine how much property was missing due to deficient property accountability and lack of inventory. The OIG could not substantiate criminal allegations against the suspect employee.

Final Management Action: The OIG substantiated that the AOC employee violated multiple AOC policies. The OIG referred policy violations to the jurisdiction for action they deemed appropriate. On June 30, 2023, the OIG was notified that the employee received a letter of reprimand on March 17, 2023. The case is closed.