



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2023-0005-INVI-P – Inappropriate Romantic Relationship Involving a Senior Rated (SR) Employee and a Subordinate Supervisor

SR Employee - Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) “Standards of Conduct” Policy and “Relationships Between Supervisors and Subordinates” Policy Memorandum. **Substantiated.**

Subordinate Supervisor - Suspected Violations of the AOC “Standards of Conduct” and “AOC IT Resources and De Minimis Use” Policies and “Relationships Between Supervisors and Subordinates” Policy Memorandum. **Substantiated.**

The AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG), Acting Architect of the Capitol and Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) Oversight Committees received an anonymous written allegation that Ms. Angela “Beth” Compton Plemmons, SR-00, Chief Executive Officer, CVC, had an inappropriate romantic relationship with a subordinate supervisor in her chain of command.

Digital forensic evidence, obtained from an AOC owned iPhone utilized by the subordinate supervisor, confirmed the two utilized the web-based application “WhatsApp”¹ to communicate for the past three years. Witness statements described behaviors associated with a romantic relationship dating back to 2016 or earlier.

Testimonial evidence provided by Plemmons and the subordinate supervisor confirmed the existence of a previous romantic relationship. Both parties stated they consented to the relationship, and agreed there was no coercion or unwanted harassment. Both parties also stated the romantic relationship ended sometime during the previous year, which was consistent with the forensic evidence obtained from the AOC owned iPhone.

The investigation also revealed that the subordinate supervisor utilized the AOC owned iPhone as their personal cellular device, accessing multiple social and dating websites in violation of AOC policy. None of these applications, including WhatsApp, are part of the standard AOC Employee configuration and are not work related.

Final Management Action: The OIG substantiated that both employees violated multiple AOC policies and the administrative violations were submitted to the Acting Architect of the Capitol for action deemed appropriate, if any. On April 6, 2023, Plemmons resigned from the AOC in lieu of action proposed. On November 6, 2023, the subordinate supervisor received a demotion. The case is closed.

¹ WhatsApp is an internationally available freeware, cross-platform, centralized instant messaging and voice-over-IP service owned by Meta which was released in 2009. It allows users to send text and voice messages, make voice and video calls, and share images, documents, user locations and other content via desktop and mobile devices. <https://www.whatsapp.com/>