



# OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

## U.S. Department of Justice

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### INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

#### **Findings of Misconduct by a Senior DEA Official for Violating Ethics Regulations, DEA Standards of Conduct, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and for Lack of Candor; by a Member of the DEA Senior Executive Service for Aiding and Abetting the Senior DEA Official's Misconduct; and by a JMD Senior IT Manager for Violating DOJ Contractor Security Policy**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated this investigation upon the receipt of information alleging that a senior DOJ Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) official hired several former DEA employees as contractors. The complaint also alleged that the senior DEA official 1) hired his son as a contractor within his chain of command at DEA; 2) hired the spouse of a retired DEA senior official as a contractor; and 3) came to work under the influence of alcohol and that the senior DEA official's supervisor, a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), knew about this misconduct and failed to take action or intervene.

The OIG substantiated the allegation that the senior DEA official 1) took actions to have the DEA's contractor hire his son and to have his son work as a DEA contractor in his chain of command by, among other things, signing two DEA forms in 2017, authorizing a total of \$340,280 in spending, including a raise, specifically for his son's contractor position; and 2) took actions in contravention of appropriate procedures to hire two former DEA colleagues as contractors in his chain of command, including the spouse of a retired former colleague. The OIG also found that the senior DEA official took actions to appoint his son as a volunteer student intern before he graduated from college.

The OIG concluded that the senior DEA official wasted and misused hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer funds and engaged in misconduct when he took actions to get his son and former colleagues contractor positions and that his actions constituted misconduct in violation of federal ethics regulations, the DEA Standards of Conduct, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

In addition, during the course of the investigation, the OIG determined that neither the senior DEA official's son nor the spouse of the former DEA employee met the basic qualification requirements for their positions, as specified in the contract. The OIG further found that the senior DEA official took actions to try to expedite the security vetting for his son and also enabled his son to submit contractor work invoices while on collegiate spring break and before graduating college. Additionally, the OIG obtained information that the DEA SES member had advance knowledge of the senior DEA official's plans to hire his son as a contractor. The OIG

thus concluded that the DEA SES member engaged in misconduct when he allowed the senior DEA official, who was his subordinate, to take these actions, which aided and abetted a conflict of interest and violated federal ethics regulations, the DEA Standards of Conduct, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

The OIG also found that the senior DEA official asked a senior IT manager with the Justice Management Division (JMD) to allow his son to report to a nearby, unaffiliated JMD building under escort, in order to submit contractor invoices while waiting for contractor clearance with DEA. The OIG concluded that the senior DEA official's actions constituted misconduct in violation of DEA security policy, the DEA Standards of Conduct, and federal ethics regulations. The OIG concluded that the senior IT manager's actions also constituted misconduct in violation of DOJ contractor security policy.

Finally, the OIG concluded that the senior DEA official lacked candor by making false entries about alcohol counseling on a Questionnaire for National Security Position, in violation of the DEA Standards of Conduct and potentially in violation of criminal statutes.

The OIG did not substantiate the allegation that the senior DEA official was under the influence of intoxicants while on duty.

Criminal prosecution of the senior DEA official and the DEA SES member was declined.

The senior DEA official retired from his position.

The OIG completed its investigation and provided its report to DEA and JMD for appropriate action.

In view of indications from this investigation that the senior DEA official was seeking post-retirement employment with various government contract companies, the OIG is also referring this matter to the DOJ Suspension and Debarment Official for action against the senior DEA official.

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Unless otherwise noted, the OIG applies the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether Department of Justice (DOJ) personnel have committed misconduct.

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