Inspector General

2025-0004-INVI-P — Alleged Theft of Government Property

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) received allegations that an AOC employee had stolen government property from Congressional office buildings. The initial complaint alleged that the employee routinely left their assigned building with bags containing items such as cleaning supplies and toilet tissue, placed them in a vehicle, and then returned to complete their shift.

OIG initiated an investigation into potential violations of AOC policy and federal law, including Second Degree Theft, in violation of D.C. Code § 22-3211 (Theft) and § 22-3212(b) (Penalties for theft).

Evidence gathered during the investigation supported the allegation that the employee frequently left the building during their shift to place multiple bags containing unidentified items into a vehicle parked in an adjacent parking lot. The employee then returned to work, finished their shift, and departed carrying only one or two bags. Video footage and eyewitness accounts documented the employee removing a plant, a large cooler, a piece of artwork, and what appeared to be a bucket containing items wrapped in blue recycling bags. The investigation also found that existing inventory controls for cleaning supplies and other consumable property items made it difficult to track the location and how often such supplies were issued to AOC employees.

OIG referred the matter to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia which accepted the matter for prosecution then ultimately dropped (nolle prosequi) the criminal charges. The dismissal of criminal charges does not negate the violation of AOC administrative policy.

OIG's investigation found by a preponderance of the evidence that the employee violated AOC's Standards of Conduct policy which prohibits AOC employees from engaging in conduct that brings discredit upon the agency, Congress, or the federal government, or that is otherwise unbecoming of an AOC employee, prohibits the removal from any office, space or area within Capitol Grounds or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the AOC any equipment, supplies, materials or other government property (including any and all discarded trash or surplus materials) without first obtaining prior written permission from an appropriate releasing authority, and prohibits AOC employees from committing theft of any government or private property.

Final Management Action:

On July 22, 2026, OIG's Report of Investigation was submitted to AOC management for any action deemed appropriate. The case is closed pending management action.