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17-0008-I – Violations of Standards of Conduct; Committing Theft of Government Property: Substantiated

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation based on an anonymous complaint that three night shift employees had been stealing supplies and food from a jurisdiction cafeteria. One of the night shift employees was later identified to have a relative employed as a restaurant contractor located in an AOC jurisdiction. It was alleged that the contract employee provided the AOC relative a key to enter the cafeteria where the food and drinks were located. The AOC employee then placed the stolen food items in a personal vehicle during breaks.

This information was provided to the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) who subsequently arrested an AOC employee. The AOC employee appeared before the Superior Court, District of Columbia and entered a diversion which is a form of sentence in which a criminal offender joins a rehabilitation program, in an effort to help remedy the behavior leading to the original arrest, and avoid conviction and a criminal record through a deferred prosecution agreement with community service. The requirements of the deferred prosecution agreement was completed and the case was disposed-nolle (will no longer prosecute).

The USCP later referred this investigation back to the AOC for resolution and possible administrative remedies. The U.S. Attorney's Office had declined to prosecute criminally on the basis that they could not accept an estimation on the amounts of food and supplies that were stolen. The follow-on administrative investigation substantiated that the AOC employees violated AOC policy when they removed AOC equipment, supplies, materials or other government property without first obtaining prior written permission from an appropriate releasing authority. The food service contractor received a letter of concern from the AOC regarding unethical employee conduct associated with her relative (AOC employee).

Final Management Action: On November 8, 2017, the AOC sent a letter of concern to the contracted restaurant regarding unethical employee conduct associated with their employee. The contractor terminated their employee effective November 10, 2017. The AOC employee who fulfilled the requirements of the deferred prosecution agreement was terminated from the AOC effective January 16, 2018. The other AOC employee was terminated from the AOC effective February 12, 2018.