

POST FOR OVERSIGHT.GOV

2019-0009-INVI-P – Suspected False Statements: Not Substantiated – Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) “Standards of Conduct,” and “Use and Creation of Social Media” Policies: Substantiated

The AOC, Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a Hotline complaint from an anonymous source, who claimed an AOC employee provided fraudulent Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Project Management Professional (PMP) certifications when they applied for a position at the AOC. The complainant cited the AOC employee listed questionable LEED and PMP certifications on their profile page on LinkedIn, a social media website. The complainant also suspected the AOC employee may have lied, exaggerated, or falsified credentials on their resume and AOC job application for the position currently held.

The investigation did not substantiate, through testimony and documentary evidence, that the AOC employee violated Title 18, United States Code: §1001 by submitting fraudulent LEED or PMP certifications when they applied for a position at the AOC. Testimony determined LEED and PMP certifications were not required and not a determining factor in hiring the AOC employee. There were no indications on the AOC employee’s resume that they claimed to possess LEED or PMP certifications. However, the resume did cite LEED and PMP examination preparation training courses.

The investigation substantiated, through testimony and documentary evidence, that the AOC employee violated the AOC “Standards of Conduct” and “Use and Creation of Social Media” policies when they created a social medial account on LinkedIn using LEED and PMP certification titles, which they did not possess, along with their AOC position title. Use of the LEED and PMP certifications created an appearance that the AOC employee possessed the certifications while representing the AOC in an official capacity. The AOC employee explained the use of the certification titles on LinkedIn, was hypothetical based on a class assignment in a Career Development course at DeVry University that they had taken. The assignment required students to create a LinkedIn account and build an internet profile with a branding message geared towards a target job. Following their testimony, the AOC employee voluntarily deleted their LinkedIn account.

Final Management Action: The investigation is closed pending management action.