



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2021-0013-INVI-P – Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Employees and Contractors Accused of Noncompliance, obeyed United States Capitol Police (USCP) Orders on January 6.

Suspected Violations of the AOC “Government Ethics,” “Standards of Conduct,” “and “Safety Manual 10-1, Vol I, Chapter M - Project Safety”: **Not Substantiated**

On March 2, 2021, the USCP, Office of Inspector General (OIG) reported to the AOC OIG, that construction items were left behind by AOC employees and contractors and used against USCP officers during the U.S. Capitol Insurrection on January 6, 2021. Allegedly, USCP personnel on the U.S. Capitol West Front ordered the workers (who were there to construct the Presidential Inaugural Stands) to take equipment with them as they departed the area. Purportedly, some workers stood in the stands and took pictures of the large crowd instead of helping to remove items that protesters subsequently used against the USCP. The USCP OIG was not sure if the workers were AOC employees or AOC contractors.

The AOC OIG coordinated with the USCP and AOC senior leaders from the Capitol Building, Office of the Chief Engineer, Office of Safety Code and Compliance and Office of the Chief Security Officer to identify, via a questionnaire, possible witnesses to determine their specific duties and whereabouts.¹ We requested assistance in identifying AOC construction employees and AOC construction contractors hired by their directorate or jurisdiction, specifically focusing on employees tasked with construction duties on the U.S. Capitol West Lawn on January 6, 2021. We identified a total of two AOC employees and approximately 25 AOC contractors supporting the construction of the inaugural platform and stands.

AOC Government Employees Supporting the Presidential Inauguration 2021

From the two AOC employees identified on the West Lawn, we found that one was a supervisory painter. The individual reported that several of their subordinates evacuated the area prior to the riot. Their occupation specialty did not require special tools and they used general paint supplies. The other was a Facility Operations Specialist who was there to discuss final changes or modifications to the stands in preparations for a punch list walk through with contractors – this position also did not require special tools or equipment.

AOC Contractors Supporting the Presidential Inauguration 2021

We identified five AOC contract companies supporting construction of the inaugural platform and stand. We further identified approximately 25 contractors from those companies who were on the West Lawn,

¹ AOC OIG emailed questionnaires between June 7, 2021 and December 27, 2021, to all AOC employees and contractors (not mandatory for contractors) identified in support of (bleachers, stands, sound systems) the 2021 Presidential Inauguration.



Investigative Summary

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many of whom used hand and power tools. Respondents to our questionnaire and subsequent verbal testimony noted that they were told by the USCP to secure their tools and evacuate the area, many did not have time to gather their tools and equipment to take with them. The contractors interviewed reported damaged or stolen equipment, fire extinguishers being discharged, scrim from around the stands being destroyed and multiple missing hand tools upon their return.

USCP

We contacted the USCP regarding their recollection of events in clearing the West Lawn of AOC employees and contractors, and found that the officers named in the original allegation from the USCP OIG could not recall specifics of any refusal to remove tools or evacuate the area.

Conclusion

Photo evidence from the West Lawn on January 6, 2021, revealed that several individuals stood in the stands built for the inauguration and took pictures of the large crowd of protesters as they stormed the U.S. Capitol. However, USCP officers we contacted could not corroborate if AOC employees or contractors disobeyed their orders to assist in removing items that could be used as weapons by the protestors.

Because of the confusion and hectic nature of the day, we surmised that the USCP directed AOC employees and contractors to evacuate the West Front as the crowd became uncontrollable. We could not determine whether this was before contractors could secure all their equipment and tools. Allegations of criminal misconduct submitted to the AOC OIG have been referred to the appropriate agencies. We will continue to work with partner agencies should additional allegations come to our attention.

Final Management Action: The investigation is closed.