



# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

*2022-0008-INVI-P – Accusations of Reprisal and Abuse of Authority against two Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Senior Leaders - **Not Substantiated***

**Suspected Violations of the AOC “Standards of Conduct” and “Authorities and Responsibilities of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Cooperation of AOC Employees” policies. **Not Substantiated.****

On April 25, 2022, the AOC OIG received a complaint from an AOC employee who wished to remain confidential. The employee alleged that two senior rated (SR) members of AOC Executive Leadership were retaliating against them by changing the reporting structure for employee relations issues within their jurisdiction and allowing jurisdiction managers to circumvent policy and procedure.

The employee expressed concern that this was retaliation and abuse of authority stemming from their previous involvements with the OIG, specifically providing information related to Management Advisory 2020-0002-INVM-P.

In accordance with AOC Order 40-1, Authority and Responsibilities of the OIG and Cooperation of AOC Employees, March 12, 2019, and 2 U.S.C. § 1808, which applies certain sections of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), the OIG initiated an investigation into the allegations of abuse of authority and potential reprisal.

The OIG’s investigation did not find evidence to substantiate the allegations against either individual. Neither party was even aware the complainant had provided information to the OIG in the past; therefore, could not retaliate against them. SR 1 was unaware of the complainant’s current issues they were encountering at work and SR 2 was aware of the employee’s concerns; however, provided valid explanations for the decisions they had made pertaining to these allegations.

Our investigation found there to be a lengthy history of animosity and lack of trust between the divisions within the specific jurisdiction, which is better suited for review by the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Dispute Resolution. While we did not substantiate the complainant’s allegations, the OIG did find a reoccurring theme of distrust and unhappiness within this unit of the AOC workforce that we hope AOC leadership will take action to review and correct.

**Final Management Action:** The OIG did not substantiate the allegations. The case is closed.