



# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

*2022-0012-INVI-P – Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Employee Misuses AOC Identification (ID) Badge; Accesses Unauthorized Areas of U.S. Capitol Building.*

**Suspected Violations of the AOC “Standards of Conduct” and “Government Ethics” policies. **Substantiated.****

**Suspected Violations of AOC Order 630-1, “Absence and Leave Policy”. **Not Substantiated****

On May 17, 2022, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint from the Capitol Visitors Center (CVC), regarding allegations of an AOC employee’s misuse of sick leave and misuse of their AOC ID badge. The complaint stemmed from a report that the Chief Executive Officer for Visitor Services received from the Senate Sergeant at Arms (SSAA) alleging that on May 12, 2022, the AOC employee, while on approved sick leave, went to the Democratic Cloakroom door, located across from the Majority Leader’s office on the second floor of the U.S. Capitol, and advocated for their child to be hired as a patronage employee.<sup>1</sup> The employee was described as belligerent and insistent in their approach.

The OIG initiated an investigation into the allegations and confirmed that the employee had been out of work on sick leave since April 2, 2022, with no scheduled date to return to work. Additionally, the OIG confirmed that the employee had submitted appropriate medical documentation for their absence. The OIG revealed that the incident had occurred on May 11, 2022, versus the reported date of May 12, 2022, and determined through testimonial evidence that on May 11, 2022, while on sick leave and during their normal scheduled tour of duty, the employee misused their position as an AOC employee when they utilized their AOC ID badge to access the Republican and Democratic Cloakrooms of the Senate Chamber. The second floor of the U.S. Capitol building around the Senate Chamber to include the Democratic and Republican Cloakrooms are non-public areas and, without proper Congressional ID, are unauthorized to the general public.

**Final Management Action:** The OIG substantiated that the AOC employee violated multiple AOC policies when they utilized their AOC ID to enter an unauthorized area of the Capitol building while off duty and not on official business. Additionally, the employee created a lack of impartiality when they knowingly advocated for a paid congressional employee position for their family member. The administrative violations were submitted to the jurisdiction for action deemed appropriate, if any. On January 11, 2023, the AOC provided a Management Response advising that management action was taken, and that the AOC employee served a five-day suspension. The case is closed.

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<sup>1</sup> Political patronage is the appointment or hiring of a person to a government post on the basis of partisan loyalty. <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1140/political-patronage>