



Inspector General

2024-0001-INVI-P — MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT ISSUED IPHONE

Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) “Standards of Conduct,” “Information Technology Resources and De Minimis Use” and “Workplace Anti-Harassment” Policies; and the Information Technology Division’s (ITD) Rules of Behavior. **Substantiated.**

The AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG), received an anonymous allegation that claimed Mr. James Newton, former AOC employee, WG-4, Laborer (Recycler), Capitol Building, had misused his AOC issued iPhone by sending sexually explicit images in violation of ITD policy.

The OIG initiated an investigation into violations of multiple AOC policies. Evidence obtained from a forensic examination confirmed the existence of multiple sexually explicit photos stored on the AOC iPhone issued to Newton. Testimonial evidence obtained from Newton confirmed he had sent images containing his exposed genitals to another AOC employee.

Newton also told the OIG that he had sent nude images of himself to people he knew personally and had met online using applications downloaded and installed on his AOC issued iPhone. Newton admitted to downloading multiple applications, including applications associated with gambling, on the AOC issued iPhone. Additionally, Newton stated to the OIG that he had signed the ITD Rules of Behavior but had not read “the manual.”

The OIG’s investigation identified a victim who had been in receipt of a text message from Newton that contained the statement, “This is waiting for you,” followed by two images of his exposed genitals. The victim was not comfortable notifying AOC management or the Diversity, Inclusion and Dispute Resolution office of the incident. The victim reiterated to the OIG that they did not want, ask for or approve of the images sent by the employee.

Final Management Action: The OIG substantiated that Newton violated multiple AOC policies and the administrative violations were submitted to the Acting Architect of the Capitol for action deemed appropriate, if any. On April 30, 2024, the OIG was notified that Newton had been removed from his position with the AOC on January 26, 2024.