



Inspector General

2024-0004-INVI-P — FORMER ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL (AOC) EMPLOYEE COMMITTED DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY INSIDE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ADAMS BUILDING.

Joseph Wayne Brame: Suspected Violations of the AOC “Standards of Conduct” Policy; and 18 U.S. Code § 1361 – Destruction of Government Property. **Substantiated**

On October 23, 2023, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a formal complaint from the Library of Congress (LOC) OIG regarding alleged misconduct by former AOC employee Joseph Wayne Brame, WG-12, HVAC Electronics Mechanic, Library Buildings and Grounds. The complaint detailed concerns that equipment had been moved and was potentially missing from the weight room in the LOC Wellness Center, located in the Library of Congress Adams Building. After discussion with the LOC OIG regarding the missing and displaced equipment, the LOC Security & Emergency Preparedness Directorate (SEPD) installed a temporary security camera in the LOC Wellness Center.

Surveillance footage obtained by the OIG captured Brame entering the Wellness Center, where he was observed moving and relocating weights as well as disconnecting the security camera from the ceiling. On October 25, 2023, Brame was called into a meeting with several AOC Supervisors and AOC Senior Leadership. During this meeting, Brame admitted to dismantling the camera and damaging the ceiling tile in the process. He claimed he thought the camera was a "peeping Tom" device and disposed of it without informing an AOC supervisor or the U.S. Capitol Police.

Further investigation by the AOC OIG, conducted in collaboration with the LOC OIG, revealed discrepancies in Brame's account of the incident. During a follow-up interview, Brame contradicted his earlier statement, and stated that he had not removed the camera from the premises as initially claimed, but instead had placed it back into the ceiling tile. This was inconsistent with his original admission to supervisors that he had thrown the camera away.

The OIG later determined that Brame was still in possession of the camera, which he ultimately retrieved and returned to the SEPD. The SEPD concluded that Brame had rendered the camera inoperable, with replacement costs estimated at \$270. Additionally, the AOC incurred approximately \$48.25 in labor and material costs to replace the damaged ceiling tile. Both the AOC and LOC OIG discussed the possibility of pursuing prosecution for the destruction to government property; however, in lieu of prosecution by the Assistant U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C., Brame was permitted to fully reimburse the government for the damages caused. Brame has since left the AOC and is employed at another federal agency.

Final Management Action: The OIG substantiated the administrative and criminal violations against Brame. On April 30, 2024, Brame provided full restitution to both the LOC and AOC for the damages caused. The case is closed.