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Federal Employee Violates Hatch Act Through Twitter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In violation of the Hatch Act, a federal employee posted dozens of tweets about partisan elections and candidates while on duty.

In its investigation of the matter, the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) confirmed that the employee knew of the Hatch Act restrictions on political activity. Nonetheless, the employee posted over 30 tweets, many of them soliciting contributions, another Hatch Act violation. Examples of these tweets were:

- "you don't have to live in ward5 to help put KenyanforWard5 over \$10K tonight -- only \$275 away. please help"
- "goes w/o saying, plz, tell all you know in the ward to not be apathetic 5/15 & vote for better candidate *cough, kenyan, cough*"

OSC intended to pursue prosecution but closed the case when the employee resigned, effective last month.

OSC reminds federal employees covered by the Hatch Act not to engage in political activity while on duty or in the federal workplace. Information on the Hatch Act and permissible and prohibited activities is available at www.osc.gov.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC's primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing, and to serve as a safe channel for allegations of wrongdoing. For more information, please visit our website at www.osc.gov.