

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 12, 1995

TO: Case # I95080028

FROM: [REDACTED] Special Agent

THROUGH: [REDACTED] Special Agent-in-Charge

RE: Allegation that [REDACTED], Head of DAS Publication Services, was Awarding Printing Contracts to Personal Friends and Former NSF Employees

This investigation was reopened on September 5, 1995, when our office received a second anonymous allegation claiming that [REDACTED], Head of NSF's Division of Administrative Services (DAS) Publication Services Section, was issuing former co-workers and friends, specifically [REDACTED], printing contracts.

We obtained and reviewed all of [REDACTED] awards. [REDACTED] once employed at NSF from 1988 to 1989 as a permanent, part-time Desktop Publications Specialist, was awarded five contracts for computer graphic design work. All of the contracts were awarded during 1994 and 1995, approximately five to six years after [REDACTED] employment with NSF. Our investigation disclosed that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are personal friends. However, based on interviews with the subject and DAS employees, we determined that the awards [REDACTED] received were not influenced by her friendship with [REDACTED]. It is clear that [REDACTED] did not violate any conflict of interest rules as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 207.

Of these awards, three were sole-source contracts (no competition because the award amount was under \$5,000) and two were [REDACTED]. However, one [REDACTED] was canceled after [REDACTED] voluntarily withdrew from the

agreement.¹ The documentation in [REDACTED] contracts was complete and contained the necessary signatures from [REDACTED] head of the composition unit, authorizing the bid solicitation, [REDACTED] contracting officer in DAS, authorizing the award, and [REDACTED] authorizing payment.

In addition, we interviewed [REDACTED], and six current employees and one former employee from the Publication Services section. These interviews served to corroborate that [REDACTED] was awarded contracts well after she had left NSF and that [REDACTED] was not [REDACTED] technical contracting officer [REDACTED] was).

Due to the lack of substantial evidence, further investigation is not warranted at this time. This case is closed.

¹ [REDACTED]