

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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EDWARD F. STANCIK
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News Release

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**Home Instruction Teacher Arrested for Stealing
Money From the BOE By Claiming to Teach
Children When He Was Conducting Personal Business**

Investigators from the Office of Special Commissioner Edward F. Stancik today arrested fifty-four-year-old Frank Accardi, a former Home Instruction Teacher, for theft and fraud relating to his duties with the Board of Education ("BOE"). During the 2000/2001 school year, Accardi falsified records claiming to teach students when he did not and collected over \$1,000 for instruction he never provided. Home Instructors teach students individually who are unable to attend school, usually in the children's homes.

BOE officials removed Accardi from his position as a Home Instructor in September 2001 after Special Commissioner Stancik released the results of his investigation and recommended termination of the teacher's employment. Administrative charges brought by the BOE are pending.

According to Special Commissioner Stancik's original report, released on August 8, 2001, instead of working his required six-and-a-half hour days, Accardi often spent time at home or at "Grandma's Bagels," a store in which he had an ownership interest. SCI investigators followed Accardi and recorded the teacher on video behind the counter at his bagel store at times he was supposed to be teaching children.

Accardi also kept students on his schedule even after they returned to regular school classes. In one case, Accardi pressured a parent of one of his former students to call his supervisor and lie by telling her that the child was being pulled out of school early everyday so Accardi could teach the boy. Accardi threatened the father that if he had to take the student off his schedule, it would be difficult to get another instructor if he needed one in the future.

Accardi has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a felony, as well as Petit Larceny and Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, which are misdemeanors. The case is pending in Staten Island. Special Commissioner Stancik gratefully acknowledges the assistance and cooperation provided by Richmond County District Attorney William L. Murphy and Assistant District Attorney Mario Mattei.