

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
80 MAIDEN LANE, 20TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

RICHARD J. CONDON
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (212) 510-1400
Fax: (212) 510-1550
WWW.NYCSCI.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2011

CONTACT: Laurel Wright-Hinckson
(212) 510-1479

Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation **2010 Statistical Report**

Today, Special Commissioner Richard J. Condon released a statistical report detailing the number of complaints received and investigations conducted by his office in 2010, involving employees, individuals, and companies associated with the New York City Department of Education (DOE).

In 2010, SCI received a total of 3,336 complaints which represents an 11% increase from the 3,013 complaints received in 2009 and is the highest in the history of the agency. Of the 3,336 complaints received in 2010:

- 778 investigations were opened representing a 15% increase over the 679 investigations opened in 2009;
- The number of investigations opened represents the highest for the agency; and
- 51 complaints involved Charter Schools which represents a 57% increase over the 22 complaints in 2009.

In 2010, SCI completed 791 investigations and SCI had substantiated findings in 306 of those cases. The number of substantiated cases in 2010 represents 39% of the investigations completed. SCI recommended that the employment of 126 individuals be terminated compared to 112 in 2009. SCI recommended that 189 individuals be made ineligible for future employment with the DOE compared to 175 in 2009. Of the 306 cases substantiated in 2010, SCI referred 110 cases to prosecutors – 15% more than were referred in 2009. Investigations conducted by SCI resulted in the arrest of 11 individuals or corporations in 2010.

In 2010, 586 of the complaints received at SCI involved an allegation of sexual misconduct. Of those, 222 investigations were opened. SCI completed 243 investigations which involved a sexual allegation and 73 – 30% – had substantiated findings. Sexual allegations include criminal acts, inappropriate relationships with students who have reached the age of consent, and physical and verbal harassment of a sexual nature.

MORE ?

In 2010, the Special Commissioner publicly released a number of reports detailing the findings of SCI's investigations. These included:

- A Queens high school principal who solicited oral sex from male students;
- A computer technician who stole nearly \$50,000 in DOE computer equipment;
- A custodian assigned to a Manhattan school who stole nearly \$30,000 in DOE funds;
- An investigation into a Charter school;
- An individual, prosecuted in the Southern District of New York, who stole \$644,313 from a DOE Small Item Payment Process ("SIPP") account;
- A vendor who overbilled the DOE by more than \$1 million through fraudulent invoices for materials and falsified payrolls;
- New Jersey resident parents who enrolled their daughter at LaGuardia School of Music & Art and Performing Arts without paying nonresident tuition to the DOE;
- An investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of a 12-year-old female student from the Columbia Secondary School who drowned during a class trip to Long Beach;
- A former teacher at Beacon High School who traveled with students to Cuba after being instructed not to go;
- A Brooklyn principal who committed a number of financial infractions, including the submission of false bids;
- An assistant principal in Manhattan who accessed the e-mail accounts of several principals. He also engaged in a personal relationship with the Superintendent;
- A Queens school secretary who misappropriated thousands of dollars in public funds using SIPP and DOE procurement cards to make personal purchases for herself and her family; and
- A former DOE teacher who solicited nude photographs from a 13-year-old female student in Brooklyn and who had sex with a female student from the Bronx when she was 13 and 14 years old.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and Special Commissioner Condon reports to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.