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Report Released Today - Copies Available

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that Richard Gallo, a 52-year-old New York City Department of Education Teacher, unlawfully recorded conversations between other DOE employees without their consent by concealing a video and audio recording device in a room in the High School of Law, Government and Justice, a unit of P 721 in the Bronx. In addition, while Gallo awaited the outcome of DOE disciplinary charges based on this misconduct, he disseminated harassing e-mail messages (which identified the senders by fictitious names) to DOE employees. The recipients included witnesses in the disciplinary proceedings against Gallo, his supervisor, and the wife of a DOE employee whom Gallo recorded. The investigation also determined that Gallo wrote anonymous letters to the parents of P 721 students urging them to lodge complaints against the DOE employees whose conversations he recorded.

The DOE settled the disciplinary charges against Gallo prior to the outcome of this investigation. The settlement allowed Gallo to return to teach at another school in exchange for withdrawing a lawsuit he filed against the DOE, attending a few counseling sessions, and paying a $2,500 fine.

Commissioner Condon has referred his findings to the Bronx County District Attorney's Office for appropriate action. He has also recommended that Richard Gallo's employment be terminated and that he be made ineligible for any future employment with the DOE.

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.