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Custodian Steals Over $29,000 in DOE Funds Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that 42-year-old New York City Department of Education ("DOE") Custodian Edwin Hendricks, assigned to Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change ("Marshall") in Manhattan, stole more than $29,000 in DOE funds from his custodial account. Hendricks utilized a number of schemes, some in which three former DOE custodial employees were complicit: He wrote payroll checks to his sister, Tasha Croskey, 29, totaling $12,108 purportedly for work she performed at Marshall during hours she was actually working for another employer at a bank office in Newark; he wrote checks totaling $3,641 payable to David Guinyard, 26, and Walter Streat, 41, for hours they did not work, cashed the checks, and shared the proceeds with the two former employees; he wrote checks payable to Croskey, Guinyard, and another Marshall custodial employee, forged their endorsements, and pocketed all of the proceeds, $4,105. Hendricks falsified employee timecards and DOE payroll records to cover his thefts.

Hendricks also used his DOE custodial account to pay personal expenses, including $1,400 for private school tuition for his children, a Congressional campaign contribution for $150, and $580.80 in personal life insurance premiums. The custodian withdrew $2,920 in cash from the account using automatic teller machines, and he issued and cashed a paycheck to himself which included $1,772 in unearned compensation.

Hendricks has been reassigned from Marshall as a result of this investigation, and is not currently working in a DOE school. Croskey, Guinyard, and Streat no longer work for the DOE. Commissioner Condon has recommended that Hendricks be dismissed from his DOE position, and that he – along with Croskey, Guinyard and Streat – be placed on the ineligible list and barred from future employment with the DOE or its affiliates. The Commissioner has also referred his findings to New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. for whatever action he may deem appropriate.

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.

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