

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2009

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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that Tyrone Brown, the Executive Director of the Brooklyn Music and Arts Program, which is housed in a Department of Education ("DOE") school and does business with the DOE, was involved in an inappropriate relationship with a 17-year-old female DOE student who was a member of the famed Brooklyn Steppers, an activity offered by the Brooklyn Music and Arts Program. The New York State Education Department's Liberty Partnership Program funds the Brooklyn Music and Arts Program through the City University of New York ("CUNY"). Russell Simmons and the Bloomberg Foundation also have given funds to the Program.

In the course of the investigation, Brown sent a letter to the Research Foundation of CUNY, reporting that, effective April 17, 2009, he resigned from his position as the Executive Director of the Brooklyn Music and Arts Program. His resignation was not irrevocable. Special Commissioner Condon recommended that the DOE require the Brooklyn Music and Arts Program to terminate Tyrone Brown's association with the Program irrevocably. Should the Brooklyn Music and Arts Program not agree to take that action, SCI recommended that the DOE cease doing business with the Brooklyn Music and Arts Program. This would include, but is not limited to, the DOE removing the Brooklyn Program from DOE space, the DOE declining to enter into contracts with the Brooklyn Program for music, dance, and other services, and the DOE refusing to allow its students to participate in the Brooklyn Program. In addition, Special Commissioner Condon recommended that Brown be made ineligible for work in the City school system, in its facilities, and with its vendors.

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.