

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing the findings of an investigation which substantiated that Principal Maria Penaherrera, formerly assigned to PS 114 in Brooklyn, committed various financial infractions, including the submission of false bids. The investigation also substantiated that Gardy Brazela, President of the Friends United Block Association and Friend United Youth Center, who is not a Department of Education employee, but operated an after school program at PS 114, attempted to give a gift to Penaherrera's replacement and money to PS 114 Custodian Joseph Meehan. Meehan failed to report the offer of money by Brazela.

Special Commissioner Condon recommended that Maria Penaherrera's employment be terminated and that she be made ineligible for future work with the Department of Education. The findings were referred to Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes for whatever action he deems 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.