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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 Martiza Tamayo, Principal of the Unity Center for Urban Technologies, a Department of Education (DOE) high school in Manhattan, had a personal friend perform a Santeria ceremony at the school during a break when no students were in attendance. Tamayo invited an assistant principal (AP) to the ceremony, but when the subordinate failed to appear, the principal then instructed the AP to participate in a continuation of the Santeria service, and thereafter had the AP pay $900 toward the cost of the ceremony.

The investigation also found that the same individual who performed the Santeria ceremony was hired by Tamayo and paid $350 to transport five students to and from the school to take Regents exams. A part-time teacher provided the cash for the transportation cost and was repaid with $250 in school funds and $100 raised through the solicitation of staff members.

The Special Commissioner has recommended that Principal Tamayo's employment be terminated, that she be made ineligible for work with the DOE, and that this matter be considered should she apply for any position in the New York City public school system in the future. Additionally, the Special Commissioner has recommended that the employee who facilitated the use of school funds for the transportation fee receive appropriate disciplinary action.

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.