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FORMER NYC DOE LOCAL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERINTENDENT ARRESTED
FOR FILING FORGED DOCUMENTS RELATING TO HER CREDENTIALS

Richard J. Condon, the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District ("SCI"), announced the arrest of Joan Mahon-Powell, a former Local Instructional Superintendent ("LIS") for Region 6/District 18. She surrendered to SCI investigators today at the New York County District Attorney's Office and was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, both felonies.

Mahon-Powell, 48, of Brooklyn, NY, is accused of presenting a New York State issued School District Administrator ("SDA") certificate which had been altered to appear as if it belonged to Mahon-Powell. The investigation began after the New York City Department of Education conducted a check of Mahon-Powell's credentials upon her appointment to the LIS position and the original SDA was found to have been issued to a former DOE employee who had been Mahon-Powell's subordinate.

Mahon-Powell worked for the New York City school system for more than 20 years. In September 1981, she was appointed as a regular Teacher, but lost that job in July 1988, because she did not meet the requirements of the position. She then taught as a substitute until September 1992, when she was appointed as an Assistant Principal, a position she held until 1997 when she was promoted to Principal. In 1999, Mahon-Powell became the interim acting Superintendent of District 19 and, in July 2000, she was appointed as the Superintendent of the Chancellor's District. The following year, in a superintendent's line, she became the Liaison to the City University of New York. In January 2003, Mahon-Powell lost her Superintendent's position because of budget cuts and then filled the vacancy for the Deputy Superintendent in District 18 until July 2003, when she was made the LIS in Region 6.

The investigation also revealed that Mahon-Powell had submitted a similar fraudulent document in 1992 when she was promoted to the Assistant Principal position. In fact, Mahon-Powell does not possess an SDA.

Mahon Powell's employment was terminated shortly after the investigation began. Special Commissioner Condon has asked the Chancellor to make her ineligible for future employment.

The Special Commissioner thanks New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau and the members of his staff for their cooperation. Assistant District Attorney Judy Salwen will be handling the prosecution under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Leroy Frazer, Jr.

The Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District is a part of the New York City Department of Investigation.