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NEWS RELEASE
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PRESS CONFERENCE:
Special Commissioner's Office
25 Broadway, 8th floor
11 a.m.

Special Commissioner of Investigation Edward F. Stancik today released the report of his investigation into the drowning of fourteen-year-old Daniel Maracallo in the wave pool of Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom in Pennsylvania on June 15, 1994, during a class trip of eighth graders from I.S. 166 in the Bronx.

The report reveals how the circumstances leading up to Daniel's drowning and the events following assistant principal Winsome Naylor's discovery that Daniel was missing, including her decision to return home knowing that Daniel was missing, paint a picture of poor planning and even worse judgment. The investigation's findings include:

- The principal and assistant principal failed to follow the district's written rules governing field trips.
- Parents were not asked to escort the trip, nor were they warned of the nature and dangers of the trip, including the need to swim.
- The adult to student ratio of 23:1 was far higher than the district requirement of 10:1.
- No provisions were made for the supervision of the ten special ed students on the trip.
- Safety instructions were virtually non-existent and students were allowed to roam the 187-acre water and amusement park without supervision by teachers, some of whom enjoyed the amusements for themselves.
- Despite the cries for help of three of Daniel's friends, Dorney Park lifeguards neither entered the water to search for Daniel, nor turned the wave machine off.
- At the time of Daniel's disappearance, his friends were unable to locate a single member of the school staff.
- The school staff was totally unaware that nine students from the school were rescued by lifeguards during the course of the trip.
- Assistant principal Winsome Naylor and teacher James Jackson failed to act upon students' accounts of Daniel's drowning as they boarded the bus for home.
- Upon returning to the school, two teachers left the students unattended at the school so they would not miss a New York Knicks championship game.