

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
25 Broadway, 8th floor, New York, New York 10004
Telephone: (212) 510-1400
Fax: (212) 510-1550

Edward F. Stancik
Special Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE
November 20, 1995

PRESS CONFERENCE
Special Commissioner's Office
25 Broadway, 8th Floor
10:30 a.m.

**REPORT REVEALS CORRUPT HIRING PRACTICES
AT DIVISION OF SCHOOL SAFETY**

Edward F. Stancik, the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, today releases "An Investigation into Recruiting, Screening and Hiring Practices at the Board of Education's Division of School Safety." The report describes a back channel at the Division where School Safety Officers were hired through bribes, family and social connections, and union referrals instead of through proper screening and hiring procedures.

The Special Commissioner's report recommends that eleven DSS employees be fired and/or barred from future employment with the Board of Education. Three arrests have already been made in connection with this investigation. The report also calls for the implementation of widespread systemic changes in order to prevent abuses in the future. While investigating recent criminal activity by two School Safety Officers, the Special Commissioner's office discovered that as a result of screening and monitoring failures the officers were hired and retained by the Division despite its knowledge that they had prior criminal records.

The Special Commissioner thanks the office of Robert M. Morgenthau, District Attorney of New York County, for its assistance and cooperation.