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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2012

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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that several IBM consultants, who were contracted by the Department of Education (“DOE”) to work on the Internet Protocol Digital Video Surveillance project (“IPDVS”), misused DOE time and property while on assignment. The investigation also concluded that supervisory DOE employees, who were members of the IPDVS, failed to report suspected wrongdoing by the consultants.

Three IBM consultants who were members of the IPDVS team, Monica Rhodas-Campagna, Barry Jay, and Lynn Harold, were engaged in several acts of misconduct involving theft of the DOE’s time, money, and equipment. Monica Rhodas-Campagna was found conducting personal business on DOE time as well as working on DOE time and equipment from home. Congruently, Barry Jay and Lynn Harold were in possession of stolen DOE purchased electronic equipment, some of which was later sold on eBay. In addition, William Cole, the project supervisor from IBM, failed to acknowledge and report any misconduct by the IBM consultants. Commissioner Condon recommended that the DOE review its contract with IBM for appropriate action against those consultants involved in these schemes who are still working for the DOE IPDVS program. In addition, the DOE should seek to recover all funds and property improperly paid to or retained by these consultants.

The DOE employees who were the supervisory members of the IPDVS team, Paul Ringel, Joseph Iacoviello, Stephen Vigilante, Peter Lombardo and Robert Weiner, were aware or should have been aware of the IBM consultants’ wrongdoing. The supervisors’ failure to properly oversee, stop, or report the actions of the consultants, demonstrated a severe lack of oversight and attention. Commissioner Condon recommended that the DOE take appropriate disciplinary action against the supervisors which could include termination of employment.

Special Commissioner Condon also recommended that the Chancellor insist upon direct supervision of outside consultants by DOE employees. Special Commissioner Condon referred the findings to Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes for whatever action he may deem 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.