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## **DOE Vendor Pleads Guilty in Federal Court**

In August 2012, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that Nelson Ruiz defrauded the DOE out of more than \$1,000,000 over a two-year period. Ruiz billed the DOE for sign language interpretation services purportedly provided to children with special needs, but the students never received the services and the billing documents contained forged authorizing signatures. Ruiz was arrested on the day the report was issued. The investigation ultimately determined that Ruiz misappropriated more than \$2.7 million over a four-year period.

On December 17, 2012, Ruiz pled guilty to one count of mail fraud and one count of bribery. Ruiz paid the bribe to a DOE employee who processed his fraudulent billing forms. The investigation into the DOE employee's conduct is ongoing. Ruiz forfeited the proceeds of his crime; he will be sentenced in March 2013.

Special Commissioner Condon thanks U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, Assistant U.S. Attorney Brendan McGuire who is Chief of the Public Corruption Unit, AUSA Paul Krieger, and AUSA Alvin Bragg.

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.