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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report concerning an investigation which found that Thomasina Chappell, a clerical associate at the New York City Department of Education (DOE), accepted bribes from a vendor in exchange for processing bills for services which had not been rendered.

In August 2012, Special Commissioner 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. The DOE paid Ruiz 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. The investigation ultimately determined that Ruiz misappropriated more than $2.7 million over a four-year period. The report released today showed that Ruiz was able to carry out his scheme to defraud through monetary bribes to Chappell who processed the false invoices.

After her participation in the scheme was revealed, Chappell resigned from her position with the DOE and she is not eligible for employment in the City school system.

The investigation was conducted in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Special Commissioner Condon thanks United States Attorney Preet Bharara, Assistant US 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.