

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Special Commissioner

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PRESS CONFERENCE
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School Safety Officer Sought Improper Relationship with Student

In a letter sent today to Chancellor Rudy Crew, Special Commissioner of Investigation Edward F. Stancik recommends that the Board of Education terminate the employment of School Safety Officer Sgt. Harry Roman, a member of the Latin Kings gang, for soliciting an improper relationship with a student.

In October 1995, Roman, then a safety officer at Bushwick High School, gave a three-page letter to an 18-year-old student there which told the girl, "I like you and I would really love to make you my woman. . . Since I first layed [sic] my eyes on you I was attracted to you. . . I know for fact that you dont [sic] have a man and thats [sic] why I asked you out the other day. . . If youre [sic] sick and tired of the bullshit then accept me and let me be your man." Social workers assigned to the school became aware of the letter, and they learned that the girl feared Roman's unwanted advances because of his involvement in the Latin Kings. The social workers then alerted the principal, who referred the allegation to this office. Newly obtained evidence has now allowed the Special Commissioner to substantiate the original complaint.

Roman, now 41, began working for the Board in 1986. He was transferred from Bushwick High School, 400 Irving Avenue in Brooklyn, to I.S. 302, 350 Linwood Street in Brooklyn, at the beginning of the 1996-97 school year. On March 3, 1997, following Roman's public admission that he was a member of the Latin Kings gang, he was suspended from his position in the Division of School Safety and reassigned to duties that would not involve direct contact with children.

The Special Commissioner's Office is continuing to investigate Roman's involvement in the Latin Kings as well as the extent of the gang's influence in the school system at large.