

December 20, 2004

Hon. Joel I. Klein
Chancellor
New York City Public Schools
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street, Room 314
New York, NY 10007

Re: Clayton Fitz Coy
Aaron Stroud
SCI Case #2004-2495

Dear Chancellor Klein:

An investigation conducted by this office has substantiated that 25-year-old Clayton Fitz Coy, a school aide assigned to Lehman High School in the Bronx, had a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old female student (“Student H”).¹ We also found that another school aide at the school, 22-year-old Aaron Stroud, acted as a lookout for Fitz Coy during a sexual encounter with the girl inside the school.² Moreover, we substantiated that Stroud had a sexual relationship with a female student at the school whom we could not identify. In addition, Stroud introduced Student H to Terrell Ellis, a graduate of the school and self-proclaimed “pimp,” who was looking to recruit girls to work for him. Finally, both Fitz Coy and Stroud made inappropriate comments to students.

This investigation began in November 2004 when Principal Robert Leder contacted this office and reported inappropriate comments made by Fitz Coy to a 17-year old female student (“Student A”). These included asking whether she liked “pussy,” telling her that she “need[ed] a dick in [her] life,” and “come to me so that I can give you that big dick.” Then, on November 3rd, when Student A asked Fitz Coy why he was staring at her, he remarked; “This is the wrong fucking day. I’ll smack the dyke out of

¹ On November 9, 2004, pending the outcome of this investigation, Fitz Coy was suspended without pay. Student H has turned 18-years-old.

² On November 12, 2004, pending the outcome of this investigation, Stroud was suspended without pay.

you, you bitch.” Leder added that three male students (“Student B,” “Student C,” and “Student D”) witnessed Fitz Coy speak improperly toward Student A.

Student A confirmed the information in the complaint and added that she had an ongoing problem with Fitz Coy. According to Student A, because of her membership in a school club, many people assume that she is a lesbian. Fitz Coy has used that conclusion to make inappropriate comments to her and other students, including Student C, her boyfriend.

In separate interviews, Student B, Student C, and Student D confirmed Fitz Coy’s misconduct toward Student A. Moreover, Student C informed investigators that, on one occasion when he was holding hands with Student A, Fitz Coy remarked: “Don’t hold her hand, she’s a slide. Serious, don’t even kiss her.”³ Student C added that, as he and Student A were walking away, Fitz Coy said: “All she needs is a big dick.”

A 16-year-old female student (“Student F”) described inappropriate comments made by School Aide Aaron Stroud beginning when she was 15-years-old. She explained that, in fall 2003, Fitz Coy approached her and wanted to know “what’s good for my boy Aaron?” Thereafter, she saw Stroud who asked to “taste” her “pussy.” She added that, one day when she was in Math class, Stroud came to the classroom and told the teacher that the dean needed to speak with Student F. However, when Student F left the class, she realized that the dean did not really want to speak with her, rather it was a ploy on Stroud’s part to get her alone and inquire about her interest in him. On another occasion, around December 2003, Student F was walking in a school stairwell and encountered Stroud who grabbed her by the shoulders, pinned her up against the partition, and told her that she was going to give him what he wanted or he was going to take it. Student F replied, “what the fuck,” and then someone entered the stairwell, which allowed her to walk away. Moreover, in September 2004, Student F was in the basement of Lehman when Stroud asked her why she did not like “dick” anymore and then told her that “they weren’t fucking you right.” According to Student F, Stroud added: “When you’re ready for the pipe game let me know.”

In the course of speaking with students, investigators located Student H and learned that she had a sexual relationship with Fitz Coy. Student H explained that, in November 2003, Fitz Coy began having conversations with her and finally asked: “When are we going out together?” and “When are we going to have sex together?” In April or May 2004, Fitz Coy told Student H to cut school so he could take her to a hotel and have sex. She agreed to do so, left school, and went with him to a motel where they had sex. After about an hour, Fitz Coy drove Student H back to the vicinity of Lehman High School and dropped her off near the football field. Student H added that, a few weeks later, she went to the same motel with Fitz Coy, they had sex, and left the room

³ Student C explained that when someone refers to a girl as a “slide” it means that she is not considered to be a man’s main girl, but rather one he secretly keeps on the side.

after approximately one hour. Afterward, Fitz Coy again dropped her off at the field next to the school.

Student H described another sexual encounter with Fitz Coy which took place at the school. She explained that, toward the end of the 2003-2004 school year, she spoke with Fitz Coy and School Aide Aaron Stroud about having sexual intercourse with Fitz Coy in the 5th floor generator room. According to Student H, Stroud had a key to open the gate on the 5th floor, he took her there, and gave her a tour of the room. Thereafter, Fitz Coy and Stroud agreed that if anyone radioed for Fitz Coy, Stroud would say that he was in the restroom. Student H returned to the generator room with Fitz Coy who had a chair positioned in the middle of the darkened room. She explained that Fitz Coy sat in the chair, she sat in his lap, and they had sexual intercourse.

According to Student H, Stroud later tried to convince her to have sex with him, but she declined. Student H added that one day Stroud introduced her to Terrell Ellis, a Lehman graduate, who told her that he had a house where some girls who worked for him lived.⁴ Ellis suggested that Student H could make a lot of money meeting men.

In an interview with investigators from this office, Clayton Fitz Coy confirmed that he made the comments described by Student A, but asserted that he was “just joking.” He also admitted having sexual intercourse with Student H. His description of the 3 occasions on which he had sex with the girl matched the account given by Student H. He also acknowledged that Stroud stayed on the 4th floor and acted as a lookout on the occasion when Fitz Coy had sex with Student H in the 5th floor generator room. In a written statement, Fitz Coy again admitted making the comments to Student A and having sexual encounters with Student H. Fitz Coy specifically noted: “[W]e had sex at her own free will. I didn’t force her to go any were [sic].”

In an interview with investigators from this office, Aaron Stroud acknowledged letting Fitz Coy and Student H into the 5th floor generator room to have sex while he acted as a lookout. He also admitted that he introduced Student H to Terrell Ellis who he knew to be a pimp. In fact, Ellis asked Stroud whether he knew any girls who were graduating and might want to work for him. Stroud suggested Student H. Asked about having sexual encounters with students, Stroud asserted that, in early 2004 in the 5th floor generator room, he had sex with a girl from Lehman. He was unable to provide her name.⁵

The conduct exhibited by Clayton Fitz Coy and Aaron Stroud was entirely inappropriate and unacceptable. It is therefore the recommendation of this office that the employment of both school aides be terminated and that this matter be considered should

⁴ Principal Leder informed investigators that he met Ellis in front of the school one day and Ellis reported being employed as “a pimp.”

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either Fitz Coy or Stroud apply for any type of position with the Department of Education in the future.

We are forwarding our findings to Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson for whatever action he deems appropriate.

We are sending a copy of this letter and of our report concerning this investigation to the Office of Legal Services. Should you have any inquiries regarding the above, please contact First Deputy Commissioner Regina Loughran, the attorney assigned to the case. She can be reached at (212) 510-1426. Please notify First Deputy Commissioner Loughran within thirty days of receipt of this letter of what, if any, action has been taken or is contemplated concerning Clayton Fitz Coy and Aaron Stroud. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. CONDON
Special Commissioner
of Investigation for the
New York City School District

By: _____
Regina A. Loughran
First Deputy Commissioner

RJC:RAL:ss

c: Michael Best, Esq.
Theresa Europe, Esq.
Rick Stewart, Auditor General

December 20, 2004

Hon. Robert T. Johnson
District Attorney
Office of the Bronx County District Attorney
198 E. 161st Street
Bronx, NY 10451

Re: Clayton Fitz Coy
Aaron Stroud
SCI Case #2004-2495

Dear District Attorney Johnson:

By the enclosed letter we are referring this matter to you for review and for whatever action you deem appropriate. Please contact me if you need any information or assistance at (212) 510-1426. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Regina A. Loughran
First Deputy Commissioner

RAL:ss
c: Elisa Koenderman, Assistant District Attorney

December 20, 2004

Hon. Rose Gill Hearn
Commissioner
New York City Department of Investigation
80 Maiden Lane, 18th floor
New York, NY 10038

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SCI Case #2004-2495

Dear Commissioner Gill Hearn:

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The conduct exhibited by Clayton Fitz Coy and Aaron Stroud was entirely inappropriate and unacceptable. We have therefore recommended to the Chancellor that

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We are forwarding our findings to Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson for whatever action he deems appropriate.

Should you have any inquiries regarding the above, please contact me or First Deputy Commissioner Regina Loughran. She can be reached at (212) 510-1426.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. CONDON
Special Commissioner
of Investigation for the
New York City School District

By: _____

Regina A. Loughran
First Deputy Commissioner

RJC:RAL:ss