CITY OF NEW YORK

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2003

BASKETBALL COACH ARRESTED FOR RAPING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT

Investigators from the office of Special Commissioner Richard J. Condon today arrested Beatriz Vargas, a Basketball Coach assigned to an after-school program at Intermediate School 80. Vargas is being charged with Rape in the Third degree, Sodomy in the Third degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

Vargas, 25, is accused of having sexual intercourse and oral sex with a 15 year-old male student. She met the student in November of 2002, while he was participating in the Basketball Program at I.S. 80. The investigation began after the NYPD notified the Special Commissioner's investigators that Vargas and the student were discovered in a parked car in Van Cortlandt Park after closing time.

Vargas, an employee of the Beacon Program, coached at I.S. 80 for 4 months. Her employment has been terminated.

"This is the second arrest by our office in four days for this type of behavior which is a felony under the law," said Special Commissioner Condon. "The fact that the accused in both cases was in a position of trust only makes it more reprehensible."

The Special Commissioner thanks Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and his office for their cooperation. Bronx A.D.A. David Colgen will be prosecuting this case.

The Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District is a part of the New York City's Department of Investigation.