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Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation
2008 Statistical Report

Today, Special Commissioner Richard J. Condon released a statistical report detailing the number of complaints received and investigations conducted by his office in 2008, involving employees, individuals, and companies associated with the New York City Department of Education (DOE). The report indicates that there have been increases in the number of complaints received and cases substantiated by SCI compared to previous years.

In 2008, SCI received a total of 2886 complaints which represents a 2.4% increase from the 2818 complaints received in 2007. This marks the 4th consecutive annual increase in complaints received. Of the 2886 complaints received in 2008:

- 725 investigations were opened representing a 3% increase from the 701 investigations opened in 2007.
- The number of investigations opened increased for the 6th consecutive year.
- There were 22 complaints involving Charter Schools compared to 10 complaints from the previous year.

SCI substantiated a total of 327 cases, including 105 – 32% – involving some form of sexual misconduct. The substantiated cases total represents a 6% increase over the 308 cases substantiated in 2007, and marks the 6th consecutive annual increase in substantiated investigations. SCI recommended that the employment of 139 individuals be terminated as compared to 112 in 2007. SCI recommended that 212 individuals be made ineligible for future employment with the DOE as compared to 186 in 2007. Of the 327 cases substantiated in 2008, SCI referred 111 cases to prosecutors – a 23% increase from the 90 cases referred in 2007. Investigations conducted by SCI resulted in the arrest of 12 individuals or corporations in 2008.

In 2008, an investigation conducted by SCI resulted in the unusual situation of a hearing on charges brought against a principal. Following testimony by an SCI investigator, other witnesses, and documentary evidence, the principal was found guilty of the specifications against him and the Chancellor imposed the hearing officer's recommendation of termination of employment. That action was upheld by the New York State Commissioner of Education.

SCI received a total of 595 sexual misconduct complaints in 2008. This marks a slight decrease – 4% – following 3 years of increases. Sexual allegations include criminal acts, inappropriate relationships with students who have reached the age of consent, and physical and verbal harassment of a sexual nature.

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.