

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing the findings of an investigation which substantiated that Principal Liza Cruz Diaz, assigned to PS 31 in the Bronx, left the school at the end of her regular Department of Education (“DOE”) workday, but directed Payroll Secretary Melissa Carey to punch out Cruz Diaz’s per session activity timecard several hours later. As a result, Cruz Diaz earned thousands of dollars in per session pay for work she did not perform. The investigation also substantiated that Cruz Diaz used DOE funds to pay for items for her daughter’s “Sweet 16” party and asked a staff member to falsify DOE records to reflect that Cruz Diaz had reimbursed the school for the non-DOE expenditure. The investigation further substantiated that Cruz Diaz removed official DOE records from the school in an attempt to conceal evidence of her misconduct. Payroll Secretary Carey assisted Cruz Diaz by punching out Cruz Diaz’s timecard and by recording the false hours on Cruz-Diaz’s time sheets.

Special Commissioner Condon recommended that Cruz Diaz’s employment be terminated and that she be made ineligible for future work with the DOE. He also recommended that appropriate disciplinary action be taken against Carey. The findings were referred to Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson for whatever action he deems appropriate.

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.