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Teacher Arrested/Sexual Performance Charges

On February 21, 2008, investigators from the office of Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon arrested 32-year-old Bradley Dieffenbacher, a teacher who had been assigned to JHS 190 in Queens, on the charge of the Use of a Child in a Sexual Performance – a felony punishable by up to 15 years in State prison – and related crimes. The arrest was the result of an investigation conducted by the Special Commissioner’s Office with assistance from the Queens County District Attorney’s Office and the New York City Police Department. The investigation found that Dieffenbacher had online contact with 12 and 13-year-old boys, directed them to pornographic websites, and engaged in sexually explicit conversations with them. Dieffenbacher also used a webcam to observe at least one of his victims masturbate at Dieffenbacher’s request.

Dieffenbacher, who had been employed by the New York City Department of Education since September 2000, resigned from his position effective February 14, 2008, after being questioned by SCI investigators.

Commissioner Condon thanks Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and members of his office who assisted with this investigation, including the Special Victims Bureau, the Child Advocacy Center, and the Computer Crimes Unit of the Detective Bureau. He also thanks the New York City Police Department Computer Crimes Squad.

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.