

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
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QUEENS H.S. TEACHER ARRESTED FOR STEALING FROM STUDENTS, DOE

Richard J. Condon, the Special Commissioner of Investigation (SCI), today announced the arrest of a former Queens High School Teacher for stealing paychecks from students and Department of Education funds.

Louis Frimet, 57, of Woodmere, NY, is being charged by the Queens County District Attorney with 110 felonies and 1 misdemeanor. These charges include Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree and Second Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree.

The SCI investigation disclosed that Frimet worked for John Adams High School's LEARN Program as the Program Coordinator. The LEARN Program provided job opportunities, within local hospitals and medical offices, to high school students. From September 2001 to July 2002, Frimet falsified time records and collected paychecks made out to students. He cashed the paychecks against his bank accounts including the account for his business, "How Did I Do, Inc.," and kept the money for himself. Frimet's scheme was discovered when a student learned that checks were being issued in his name even though he was not working. The student, who never received the checks, notified a school official who contacted Commissioner Condon's investigators.

"Frimet systematically stole thousands of dollars from the Department of Education and, more importantly, the students preparing for a career in the real world. The defendant's disregard for the students and the school system is reflected in the fact that he cashed their checks against an account entitled, 'How Did I Do, Inc.,'" said Commissioner Condon.

"The defendant is alleged to have plundered a school program for his own benefit by submitting false timekeeping records, cashing checks issued to his students and pocketing the proceeds. He betrayed the children and the Department of Education by abusing the trust that was placed in him," said Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

Frimet, who worked for the DOE for 35 years, retired shortly after the SCI investigation began. Currently, he is ineligible for employment with the Department of Education.

The Special Commissioner thanks District Attorney Brown and his office for their cooperation. A.D.A. Daniel O'Leary will be prosecuting this case.

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