#### CITY OF NEW YORK

# THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 80 MAIDEN LANE, 20TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

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# Report Released Today - Copies Available

## **Procurement Analyst Steals more than \$60,000 in Public Funds**

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that former Senior Procurement Analyst Cecil Darrell committed grand larceny in that he misappropriated more than \$60,000.00 from the Department of Education ("DOE") between September 2004 and January 2007.

The investigation, which began in January 2007, found that Darrell utilized procurement cards ("P-cards") issued to various staff members at the Division of Assessment and Accountability ("DAA") to steal at least \$47,000.00 in items purchased from Washington Computer, a DOE vendor. Darrell purchased iPods, Bose sound systems, digital cameras, a camcorder, and numerous Acer laptop and desktop computers, a brand that the DOE did not use, using P-cards issued to his supervisor. The investigation also found that Darrell used the same supervisor's P-cards to purchase a satellite phone and two hobby metal detectors and related items from other companies.

The investigation also found that Darrell, using six different P-cards issued in the names of four DAA staff members, stole more than \$9,000.00 in travel expenses, including international flights, for himself, his relatives, and friends. Darrell purchased tickets for himself and his wife Elsie, a DOE employee, to travel to Modesto, California and Florida, for other relatives to travel roundtrip between Georgetown, Guyana and New York, between New York and London, England and between Orlando, Florida and New York, for a friend to travel between Georgetown, Guyana and New York and for another person to travel between Port of Spain, Trinidad and New York.

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The investigation also discovered that Darrell was able to utilize the mail room at DOE headquarters ("Tweed") to send over 100 non-business related letters and packages to himself, family members, and friends at a cost of more than \$4,700.00 to the DOE United Parcel Service account. Shipments to Guyana and England accounted for more than \$3,300.00 of that amount.

The report concluded that Darrell was able to accomplish all these thefts because he was not supervised by anyone at the DAA in regards to procurement, while the mailroom at Tweed had no effective controls to safeguard the shipping process.

Commissioner Condon recommended that the DOE review its financial controls and report back to him on whether the current procedures are adequate to prevent employees from stealing large amounts of money over long periods of time. The Special Commissioner also recommended that the DOE examine the controls in place at the mail room and report back on whether the current practices lessen the ability of DOE employees to use the mail room to send non-business related items.

Commissioner Condon has referred his findings to New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau for whatever action he deems appropriate.

The Special Commissioner also recommended to the Chancellor that Darrell, who was terminated during the course of the investigation, be made ineligible to work for the DOE. Commissioner Condon also recommended that the DOE take significant disciplinary action against the supervisor who did not supervise Darrell.

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.