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**KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHARLES J. HYNES
ANNOUNCES ARREST OF BOARD OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEE
FOR FRAUDULENTLY COLLECTING WELFARE BENEFITS**

Brooklyn, April 21, 2003 – Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes today announced the arrest and indictment of New York City Board Of Education employee, Felicia Bute-Allen for fraudulently collecting over \$53,000 in welfare benefits while she was working as a teachers aide at P.S. 140. Ms. Bute-Allen, 41, voluntarily surrendered to the Kings County District Attorney's Office this morning. She has been charged with Welfare Fraud in the Second Degree, Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and six counts of Offering a False Instrument For Filing in the 1st Degree to conceal her Board of Education employment.

After a joint investigation conducted by both the Human Resources Administration's Bureau of Fraud Investigator Jessica Villanueva and The Special Commissioner of Investigation for the NYC School District's Investigator Heather Mack, the results were presented to the Kings County District Attorney's Office's Public Assistance Crime Unit for prosecution. The Investigation revealed that since September 1996, and for the next six years, Ms. Bute-Allen filed at least six fraudulent welfare applications to collect over \$53,000 in welfare benefits, while concealing more than double that in wages. The defendant, who lives at 735 Lincoln Avenue in Brooklyn, maintained that she was unemployed until she finally confessed to the fraud last year. She stopped receiving the welfare payments in August, 2002.

District Attorney Hynes said, "It is a shame that government employees would cheat the city out of money that should go to people who are really in need of these benefits. The real victims in this case are those unfortunate citizens who are unemployed and the taxpayers whose hard-earned money goes to people who defraud the system."

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"This case is an example of the cooperative efforts between Governmental Agencies to combat Welfare Fraud and to insure that the limited Social Services funds are distributed to those members of our society that are truly in need of assistance," added Verna Eggleston, Commissioner of the Human Resources Administration, Department of Social Services.

If convicted of the most serious charges, Ms. Bute-Allen, a New York City Board Of Education employee since 1982, could face up to 15 years in prison.

The case is being prosecuted by the Kings County District Attorney's Office Public Assistance Crimes Unit Assistant District Attorney's Lauren Mack and Frank Dudis.

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