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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that Erin Taylor, an assistant track coach assigned to Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, took female members of the Stuyvesant track team and female students from the track team at the High School for Health Professions and Human Services in Manhattan, on an unauthorized trip to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire to participate in the Dartmouth Relays. Taylor's unauthorized trip came to light when, on her way to Dartmouth in January 2008, she had an automobile accident in Vermont, which resulted in injuries to her and to some of the students. Taylor violated the Chancellor's regulation regarding school trips in a number of ways: she failed to obtain permission from the principal, she did not use Department of Education permission slips, she did not depart on the trip from the school, and she used private transportation. The investigation also revealed that Taylor regularly took female track team members on unauthorized trips in the City, elsewhere in New York State, and outside the State.

Taylor resigned from the Department of Education, effective February 5, 2008, citing personal and medical reasons which caused her to be unable to perform her assistant track coach duties. She remains eligible for employment in the City schools.

The investigation also concluded that the person who supervised coaches, Stuyvesant Athletic Director Martha Singer, may not have known about the Dartmouth trip, but could not recall whether she had discussed other unauthorized trips with Taylor. In addition, the investigation found that Stuyvesant Head Track Coach William Silver, Taylor's direct supervisor, knew that Taylor took students on unauthorized trips, including the Dartmouth event. The report recommended that appropriate action be taken against these three individuals.

Special Commissioner Condon also recommended that the Department of Education either revise the current Chancellor's regulation regarding school trips or require that schools strictly comply with the regulation.

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.