CITY OF NEW YORK

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REPORT RELEASED TODAY

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing the findings of an investigation into Opportunity Charter School ("OCS"). During the 2007-2008 school year, OCS administrators failed to adequately supervise staff and follow school policy. As a result of that failure, OCS staff failed to document interventions ("OCS incident reports") as they were required to do and engaged in confrontations with students. Verbal abuse of a student committed by a teaching assistant also was not documented.

The investigation also substantiated that, in response to anonymous allegations of physical abuse of students by the staff, a report was produced ("OCS Report") which excluded or minimized incidents of "physical intervention" or "physical restraints," allowing OCS to falsely conclude that the anonymous allegations were unsubstantiated. The OCS Report included an Analysis of Students In Need of Physical Intervention which, in conclusory language, indicated the use of restraint, but did not provide details of the physical contact between OCS staff and students.

Special Commissioner Condon referred the matter to the OCS Board of Trustees for its review and action which is not inconsistent with the findings. The OCS charter is authorized by the Chancellor and OCS is housed in a DOE building, therefore, the Special Commissioner also referred the matter to Chancellor Klein for his information and whatever action he deems appropriate.

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.