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THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
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Edward F. Stancik
Special Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE
July 20, 2001

Assistant Principal Found To Have History of Inappropriate Behavior with Students

Edward F. Stancik, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, today released the results of his investigation into wrongdoing by Omar Ayed, an Assistant Principal of Social Studies at A. Philip Randolph High School in Manhattan. As recently as May 2001, Ayed, 44 years old, behaved improperly toward a 17-year-old female student at the school. Our investigation also revealed a history of physical contact, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct by Ayed toward students and staff at various schools where he was assigned.

According to Special Commissioner Stancik, in May, Ayed made the 17-year-old female student feel uncomfortable when he instructed her to wear a short, black skirt on the day she would be standing on a table to file books. Other female students then came forward to report that Ayed made sexual remarks and stared at them. Describing his behavior, one girl told investigators, "Ayed creeps me out." Then, two of Ayed's female colleagues revealed that they, too, had been victims of his misconduct.

Reviewing Ayed's history, Stancik's investigators learned that it went back years and occurred during assignments to three different schools. His behavior included both similarly inappropriate behavior towards female students and physical punishment against male students. During the current inquiry, the Special Commissioner's investigators reviewed the prior matters, spoke with witnesses, and verified that the incidents attributed to Ayed had occurred.

In a letter to Chancellor Harold Levy, Commissioner Stancik recommended termination of Ayed's employment and that he be barred from working for the BOE in the future.