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SCHOOL CUSTODIAN RECEIVES PLEA DEAL IN BID-RIGGING SCAM

RICHARD CONDON, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (SCI), announced today that Mayra Cintron, a custodian at IS 141 in Long Island City, has pleaded guilty in the Bronx Supreme Court for her involvement in a scheme to defraud the Department of Education. Cintron pleaded guilty to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, an "A" misdemeanor.

According to the plea agreement, Cintron was ordered to pay the City \$7,500 through SCI and will be sentenced to a Conditional Discharge on September 11, 2003. Consequently, Cintron must resign within 30 days and will be permanently barred from any future employment with the Department of Education. She was assigned to PS 2 in Jackson Heights when the bid-rigging transactions took place.

Cintron, 43, of Malverne, NY, was one of the 19 New York City public school custodians, along with a window cleaner contractor, who were charged in February with violating New York State's Donnelly Act. A joint investigation by SCI and the New York State Attorney General revealed that the school custodians regularly rigged bids and received kickbacks, ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 in cash, for contracts to clean windows in schools throughout New York City from 1996 through 2001. In the indictment, Cintron was charged with bid-rigging and bribe receiving.

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