CITY OF NEW YORK

THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 80 MAIDEN LANE, 20TH FLOOR

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DOE Employee Arrested For Stealing Over \$100,000 in Special Education Funds Report of Findings Available Today

Today, investigators from the office of Special Commissioner of Investigation and the Kings County District Attorney's Office arrested Sandra Sykes McMikle, a Principal Administrative Assistant, who worked in the DOE Office of Related Contractual Services. By indictment, she was charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C felony, and related felony charges. If convicted, McMikle faces a maximum of 15 years in prison.

The investigation found that, over a five year period, McMikle stole more than \$100,000 in DOE Special Education funds through an elaborate scheme involving the creation of a fictitious student, the production of fraudulent documents, and forgery. McMikle created a student identity, based loosely on her own child, and then produced the invoices and related documents necessary to bill the DOE for his Special Education services. Because McMikle's job was to scrutinize and approve such claims for special education services and travel expenses, her supervisors routinely approved payment on the fraudulent claims. McMikle then completed her scheme by having the checks made payable to her own mother and, after forging her signature, depositing the money in a joint account.

The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the criminal case. The Special Commissioner thanks the members of DA Hynes's staff who assisted with this matter; in particular, Supervising Assistant District Attorney Michael Spanakos and Assistant District Attorney Tanisha Simon who will handle the case.

A report detailing the findings of the investigation was released today. It is available at 80 Maiden Lane, 20th floor, or contact Daniel Schlachet at (212) 510- 1418.

Special Commissioner Condon is a Deputy Commissioner to Department of Investigation Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.