

CITY OF NEW YORK  
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
80 MAIDEN LANE, 20TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

ANASTASIA COLEMAN  
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (212) 510-1400  
Fax: (212) 510-1550  
WWW.NYCSCI.ORG

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CONTACT: Regina Gluzmanova  
(212) 510-1479

**ROTC INSTRUCTOR ENGAGED IN A SEXUAL  
RELATIONSHIP WITH 17-YEAR-OLD STUDENT  
CADET**

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Anastasia Coleman released a report detailing an investigation that found Senior Naval Science Instructor Edward Gunning, a married 55-year-old Department of Education substitute teacher assigned to the High School for Health Careers and Sciences in Manhattan, engaged in a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old female student ("Student A").<sup>1</sup> As a Senior Naval Science Instructor, Gunning taught and supervised the Reserve Officer Training Corps ("ROTC") in which Student A was a participant.

The consensual sexual encounters took place at Gunning's home where the two would go after school. Student A would then leave Gunning's residence before his wife arrived home from work.

Over the course of their relationship, Gunning and Student A exchanged numerous phone calls, explicit text messages, and pictures. There were also sexually explicit references by Gunning in many of his iMessages to Student A that clearly indicated the two were involved in sexual acts with one another.

Gunning was suspended without pay pending the outcome of SCI's investigation. Gunning is not eligible for employment with the City's school system.

Special Commissioner Coleman thanks her investigative staff at SCI and once again insisted that there is no place in the New York City school system for individuals who prey upon the students they are entrusted with teaching and supervising. Commissioner Coleman emphasized that "Although we cannot criminally refer this matter due to the age of Student A at the time of her sexual relationship with Gunning, any sexual encounter with a student is improper and an egregious abuse of authority as a New York City School teacher."

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<sup>1</sup> All descriptive information was redacted in order to protect the identity of Student A.