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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Report Released Today—Copies Available

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that two NYC Department of Education (DOE) teachers, Michelle Mitchell Rossetti and Salvatore Sciortino of John Adams High School in Queens, submitted fraudulent medical documentation on various occasions to cover their sick days.

The investigation revealed that Rossetti, who sometimes used her married name Michelle Mitchell, submitted three forged medical notes to explain a 49 day sick leave which began on October 1, 2005 and ended on January 20, 2006. Moreover, she submitted a medical note that was allegedly prepared by Sciortino, a licensed chiropractor at that time, to explain an eight day absence in 2003. On five of those dates, Sciortino was also absent. He submitted a medical note to explain his absence for nine days during the months of February, March, April, and May of 2003. That document proved to be false when the chiropractor who purportedly issued it had no office at the listed location and did not hold a license to practice. The investigation also revealed that even though Sciortino's chiropractic license expired in August 2003, Rossetti submitted yet another forged medical note prepared by Sciortino to explain a ten day absence in 2005.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation has recommended that the DOE terminate the employment of both teachers and the report has been referred to the Queens County District Attorney's office.

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.