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

RICHARD J. CONDON
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: Laurel Wright-Hinckson**
October 13, 2011 **(212) 510-1479**

Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon, who also serves as the Inspector General for the Teachers' Retirement System of the City of New York ("TRS"), released a report detailing an investigation which found that former New York City school system Teacher Maria D. Sicardo, whose retirement was effective on July 1, 1993, continued to receive pension payments after she passed away on April 23, 2000. TRS mailed the pension checks to a building on Vyse Avenue, in the Bronx, owned by Reverend Victor Rosa, also known as Gomez, who falsely claimed that Sicardo died in June 2010. The investigation revealed that Rosa Gomez misappropriated more than $241,000 in TRS and UFT Welfare Fund payments by cashing checks issued to Sicardo after her death.

The Special Commissioner recommended that TRS attempt to recover the funds which should not have been paid.

Following a referral from the Special Commissioner, the Office of Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, filed a criminal complaint and obtained a warrant for the arrest of Rosa Gomez. On October 6, 2011, Rosa Gomez was arrested in Orlando, Florida, where he now resides, and he will appear in Federal Court in Manhattan. The Special Commissioner thanks Assistant United States Attorneys Brendan R. McGuire, Chief of the Public Corruption Unit, and Rachel Maimin, the AUSA assigned to the prosecution.

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.