CITY OF NEW YORK

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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 Edgar LaLuz, a self-employed School Psychologist who provided services for the Department of Education ("DOE"), falsified Bilingual Psycho Educational Assessment Reports ("Triennials") for 26 special education students throughout various Bronx schools and submitted them for payment. As a result, he received more than $10,000 in public school funds to which he was not entitled.

LaLuz's Triennials became suspect when he claimed to have completed nine Triennials in one day even though Triennials take approximately two to five hours to complete depending on the student's educational level. Investigators from the office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation interviewed 26 students whom LaLuz claimed to have evaluated and found that none had ever been evaluated by or even met LaLuz. Yet, LaLuz submitted invoices for performing evaluations of these students for which he received full payment.

Special Commissioner Condon has recommended to the Chancellor that LaLuz be denied work in a DOE facility and made ineligible for future employment in the City's schools. The report has been referred to the Bronx County District Attorney's office for whatever action he deems appropriate.

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.