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**
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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 Hillary Stringfellow, a teacher assigned to the Acorn School for Social Justice in Brooklyn, had inappropriate interaction with two male students at the school – one 19-years-old and one 18-years-old. Stringfellow sometimes treated the students to McDonald's, pizza, or dinner and had regular telephone contact with both of them. She frequently phoned one of the boys in the morning to wake him up for school. Both students denied that there was a sexual component to their relationships with the teacher. Stringfellow also denied being involved sexually with the boys. The investigation began when Stringfellow reported hearing rumors about herself and the two male students.

A significant finding in the case was the discovery that Acorn Teachers Kendra Newkirk and Sharion Thomas and Acorn Paraprofessional Tiffany Washington knew about the serious allegation against Stringfellow, but did not report it to the school's administration or to the Special Commissioner. Instead, they conducted their own investigation by interviewing the female student who was the source of the allegation, the two male students, and Stringfellow. When Stringfellow advised her three colleagues that she was going to report the matter, they told her not to do so.

Commissioner Condon recommended to Chancellor Klein that disciplinary action be taken against Stringfellow. He also recommended that Newkirk, Thomas, and Washington be terminated and made ineligible for future employment in the City's schools.

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.