



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
MARK G. PETERS
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #29-2014
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014**

**DOI CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**SCI CONTACT: REGINA ROMAIN
(212) 510-1479**

**DOI-SCI INVESTIGATION FINDS UNION MEETING
AT BROOKLYN PUBLIC SCHOOL IMPROPERLY CLOSED TO PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Today, Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and Richard J. Condon, Special Commissioner of Investigation ("SCI") for the New York City School District, issued a Report into allegations that a meeting sponsored by Local 1182 of the Communications Workers of America and attended by the Mayor in July 2014 improperly excluded members of the press. The investigation focused on whether the meeting and its approval by the Department of Education ("DOE") conformed with DOE Chancellor's Regulations D-130 and D-180, and Section 414 of the New York State Education Law, which govern the use of public school buildings and the procedures that DOE officers and employees must follow regarding holding events in school buildings. The investigation found the following conduct was improper, but inadvertent:

- a flyer about the event did not include a required disclaimer stating that DOE did not sponsor or endorse the event, and
- reporters from the New York Post were denied access to the meeting, in violation of the rules governing the use of school property.

The investigation also found there was a need to correct the communication failure between the Mayor's Office and the DOE Counsel's Office; and the failure of the Mayor's Office staff to obtain legal advice prior to the event.

A copy of the full Report follows this release and can also be found at the following links: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/html/doireports/public.shtml> and <http://www.nycsci.org/>

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Public access to events on public property is the foundation of a democratic society. City officials and agencies must educate themselves on the rules and be careful to follow them."

Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon said, "The report details how the meeting at Public School 66 which should have been open to the public and the press was instead a closed meeting."

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and Special Commissioner Condon reports to DOI Commissioner Peters.

The findings of the Report have been referred to First Deputy Mayor Anthony Shorris and Chancellor Carmen Fariña.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
See Something Crooked in NYC? Report Corruption at 212-3-NYC-DOI.