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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 21, 2006

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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a detailed report which found that personnel at the High School for Youth and Community Development located on the Erasmus Hall Educational Campus in Brooklyn, compromised the integrity of the June 2005 Living Environment Regents. When it was discovered that the students were backlogged on uncompleted school work which was a prerequisite for taking the exam, YCD teachers and other staff, aided by educators from the High School for Humanities also located at Erasmus Hall, held "Finish Your Labs" sessions and gave students answer keys to complete the required paperwork. Some students sat for the Regents exam and completed their labs afterward.

The investigation found that YCD Principal Marie Prendergast failed in her role as leader of the school. Moreover, the cheating was in vain: all the students failed to complete one section of one of the required labs and the New York State Education Department invalidated their Regents grades. They had to retake the Living Environment exam.

Copies of the report will be available after 10:30 a.m. at 80 Maiden Lane, 20th Floor. Questions should be referred to Laurel Wright-Hinckson at (212) 510-1479.

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.

