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**FORMER DOE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF LIED IN NYC
BACKGROUND VETTING TO CONCEAL HIS FORCED
RESIGNATION AS A H. S. PRINCIPAL IN WISCONSIN**

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Anastasia Coleman released a report detailing the findings of her office's ("SCI") investigation into the background vetting of David A. Hay, 39, a former deputy chief of staff to the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") Chancellor, at the time Hay was hired and later promoted by DOE. SCI initiated the investigation of Hay's background vetting immediately after his December 2019 arrest in Wisconsin where he was charged in U.S. District Court with Coercion or Enticement of a Minor and Possession of Child Pornography, both felonies. The DOE fired Hay the day after his arrest.

New York media reports after the arrest stated that while the DOE vetted Hay's background, his required City Department of Investigation ("DOI") background investigation was never finalized due to a backlog.

SCI's investigation included interviews with the two Wisconsin school superintendents who supervised Hay from July 2008 through June 2014. Both said that they never heard of any sexually inappropriate conduct involving Hay or other information pertinent to the December 2019 criminal charges. However, SCI determined that Hay made more than a dozen false statements in various City government questionnaires and other filings to conceal that he was forced to resign as a Wisconsin high school principal in 2011 for failing to obtain the required state education license and misusing a school credit card. SCI concluded that neither the DOE nor DOI background procedures would have likely revealed Hay's false representations. Moreover, Hay's former employer was bound by a written resignation agreement which prohibited the Wisconsin school district from disclosing derogatory information about him.

SCI has recommended five policy improvements to the DOE concerning background investigations of candidates for high-level and sensitive positions. SCI also referred its findings to the New York County District Attorney's office.

Special Commissioner Coleman said, "SCI's review of the DOE vetting process for high-level titles and sensitive positions revealed areas in need of improvement. We look forward to DOE's response to SCI's recommendations."