

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

25 Broadway, 8th floor, New York, New York 10004

Telephone: (212) 510-1400

Fax: (212) 510-1550

Edward F. Stancik
Special Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

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**REPORT REVEALS VOTE FRAUD
IN 1996 DISTRICT 8 COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Edward F. Stancik, the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, and Mary Jo White, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, today reveal evidence of vote fraud in the 1996 Community School Board Election in District 8 in the Bronx and call for an immediate remedy. In a report released today, *FILLING IN THE BLANKS: An Investigation Into The Write-In Votes For Carol Trotta In Community School District 8*, the Special Commissioner supports the law suit brought by the United States Attorney. The complaint, filed today in federal court, alleges that the NYC Board of Elections violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and recommends that the 1996 election results for CSB 8 be voided. In his report, Commissioner Stancik calls for the immediate removal of CSB 8 member Carol Trotta by Chancellor Crew.

The Special Commissioner's report reveals that over 100 fraudulent ballots were cast on behalf of write-in candidate Carol Trotta in the 1996 Community School Board Election. Poll workers wrote Trotta's name on ballots before distribution to voters, in some cases even placed the number "1" alongside her name, and influenced voters to cast ballots for Trotta. The investigation also found forged signatures in poll books, indicating that ballots were cast in the name of eligible voters who were actually nowhere near a polling site on election day.

Commissioner Stancik said, "This marks the first time in New York that the federal government has brought suit to void a local school board election. Mary Jo White is to be congratulated for recognizing the seriousness of election fraud in our local school districts and taking firm action to halt it."

The Special Commissioner has referred evidence of criminal conduct to Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson.