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**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT DOE HIGH SCHOOL FAILED TO ACT ON  
REPORT THAT STUDENT CONVICTED IN STABBINGS PREVIOUSLY  
CARRIED A KNIFE TO SCHOOL**

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation (“SCI”) Anastasia Coleman released a report detailing the findings of an investigation stemming from a fatal double stabbing by an 18-year-old student (“Student A”) at the Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation (“Wildlife”) in September of 2017, that resulted in the death of one student and serious injury to another. In the wake of the stabbing, a review of school records found that Assistant Principal (“AP”) Caridad Caro, while assigned to Wildlife as the AP for discipline, failed to properly act on an earlier report by the mother of Student A that her son threatened family members with a knife and had brought the knife to school in his backpack.

Approximately two and one-half years prior to the fatal attack, Student A’s mother informed Wildlife Teacher Justin Keating (“Keating”) that her son was carrying a knife to school. Although Keating informed AP Caro and also entered the mother’s report into the school’s in-house information system, Caro did not relay the information to the Principal or to anyone else at the school, and failed to log the incident into the Department of Education’s (“DOE”) online reporting system (“OORS”). AP Caro told investigators that she instead personally searched Student A’s backpack and thought it unnecessary to report the mother’s message because she did not find a weapon.

While SCI investigators found no evidence to corroborate Caro’s claim that she searched Student A’s backpack, such searches are to be performed exclusively by NYPD School Safety Agents, and not DOE staff.

SCI also examined but found no corroboration of Student A’s claims that he repeatedly complained to DOE personnel that he had been bullied at Wildlife, and that some of this bullying occurred in the presence of DOE staff. The DOE closed Wildlife in June 2018.

As widely reported in the news media, Student A brought a switchblade to school and carried out the fatal stabbing in September of 2017. Student A was found guilty of manslaughter, assault, and a weapons charge in Bronx Supreme Court, and was subsequently sentenced to 14 years in prison on September 10, 2019.

Commissioner Coleman emphasized, “The Department of Education has systems and procedures in place to help assure the safety of DOE students and staff members. It is imperative that all staff members follow protocol and promptly report any and all threats that may jeopardize the safety of our school communities.”