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**DOE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ARRESTED FOR SEEKING TO MEET
WITH ALLEGED 14-YEAR-OLD HE ENCOUNTERED ON DATING APP**

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Anastasia Coleman announced the arrest of Claudio Garcia, a 41-year-old Assistant Principal at Queens Technical High School, who communicated with, and planned to meet, an individual he met on the dating application Grindr whom he believed to be a 14-year-old male.

The arrest was the result of a joint investigation conducted by the office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) and the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”) Computer Crimes Squad, who determined that Garcia had communicated on the dating app with an individual whom he initially believed to be 18-years-old. As their conversation progressed, the individual with whom Garcia was communicating stated multiple times that he was, in fact, 14-years-old. Garcia, however, continued to engage with the individual and made plans to meet at a park near his residence in the Bronx.

When Garcia arrived to meet the individual, he learned that the alleged 14-year-old was actually an adult male who recorded their encounter and posted it to YouTube.

Garcia is being charged with Attempted Criminal Sex Act in the 2nd Degree and Attempted Disseminating Indecent Material to Minors in 1st Degree.

“There is no place in the New York City School System, nor anywhere else in our society, for this type of predatory behavior. Those who seek to prey upon our children, particularly those who are entrusted with positions of influence, must be sought out and face the full consequences of our legal system,” said Special Commissioner Coleman.

Special Commissioner Coleman thanks her investigative staff at SCI and the NYPD Computer Crimes Squad, specifically Lieutenant Felix Rivera and Detective Brian Quinn, for their work on this case.