

City of New York
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Special Commissioner

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 25, 2022

Hon. David C. Banks
Chancellor
New York City Public Schools
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street, Room 314
New York, NY 10007

Re: Noni Porter
SCI Case #: 2021-3543

Dear Chancellor Banks:

An investigation conducted by this office has substantiated that New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) Teacher Noni Porter, assigned to the Bronx School for Continuous Learners (“BSCL”), stole another individual’s COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card and created a fake card – which she submitted to the DOE as proof that she received the Moderna vaccine – when in fact she did not.¹

I. Investigation and Findings:

The investigation began in September 2021, when the office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) received an email complaint of misconduct committed by Porter. In the complaint, ██████████ reported that the school received a telephone call from a confidential witness (“C/W”) who stated that Porter “Stole my vaccination card and is forging it to use as her own so she can continue working after September 27, 2021.”² When SCI investigators interviewed ██████████, ██████████ repeated the information ██████████ had previously provided and stated that the C/W’s relationship to Porter was unknown. When asked to provide a copy of the COVID-19 Vaccination Report Card Porter submitted to the DOE, ██████████ was unable to do so, and said that the DOE portal only confirmed that a vaccination card had been submitted by Porter.

¹ Porter was reassigned during the course of SCI’s investigation. There is a problem code associated with her personnel file.

² Although the C/W insisted on remaining anonymous, the individual left a name and contact information. ██████████ was familiar with this person.

The assigned SCI investigator contacted [REDACTED], and requested a copy of the vaccination card submitted by Porter. The assigned investigator was subsequently contacted by [REDACTED], who provided Porter's COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card. This item indicated that Porter received the COVID-10 Moderna vaccine on September 16, 2021, and the site listed was "Walgreens 14390."

In an interview with SCI investigators, the C/W stated that Porter wanted to obtain a vaccination card from someone because she had no intention of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The C/W continued that there was a recent occasion when the C/W realized that the C/W's vaccination card was missing from the C/W's residence. The C/W subsequently reported to [REDACTED] that Porter stole the C/W's vaccination card and it was the C/W's belief that Porter submitted a forged document to the DOE. The C/W told investigators that approximately two days prior to the C/W's interview with investigators; the card reappeared in the C/W's residence. The C/W provided a copy of the C/W's COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to the assigned SCI investigator. The card showed that the C/W received the Moderna vaccine at "Walgreens 14390" on August 19, 2021 and September 16, 2021.

SCI investigators met with Walgreens [REDACTED] who stated that Porter had a "patient profile" in the system, and confirmed this information with her name and date of birth. [REDACTED] noted, however, that the system did not reflect that Porter had received any vaccinations for COVID-19. When [REDACTED] was presented with a copy of the Vaccination Record Card that Porter submitted to the DOE, [REDACTED] recognized it to be fraudulent. Porter's vaccination card indicated that she received the Moderna vaccine, lot #017E27A on September 16, 2021. According to [REDACTED], lot #017E27A was not administered to patients in September 2021 – the actual lot number administered during that time period was #017E21A. [REDACTED] added that the C/W had a patient profile in the system, and this individual received the Moderna vaccination in August 2021 and September 2021, as documented on the C/W's record card.

In an interview with SCI investigators, Porter refused to provide the source of the vaccination card she created, but claimed that the individual who assisted her was not a DOE employee. Porter told investigators that in September 2021, she uploaded to the DOE website a COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card – for which she paid \$60.00. Porter was then shown a copy of the vaccination card submitted to the DOE in her name, and she acknowledged that it was same card she submitted as proof of her vaccination status. When questioned as to the authenticity of the document, Porter acknowledged that it was "fake," and that she was not vaccinated.

II. Conclusion and Recommendation:

Upon review of the above facts, SCI substantiated that Noni Porter stole another individual's COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card and created a fake card, which she submitted as proof that she had been vaccinated. During her interview with SCI investigators, Porter admitted that the vaccination card she submitted was fraudulent. Further, a Walgreens representative confirmed that the card Porter submitted to the DOE was, in fact, the vaccination card issued to the C/W. It is therefore the recommendation of this office that Porter be dismissed from her DOE employment and that a problem code remain associated with Porter to make her ineligible for work with the DOE, with its vendors, or in any of its facilities in the future.

Please respond in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter as to what, if any, action has been taken or is contemplated regarding Noni Porter or the recommendation made herein. We are forwarding a copy of this letter to the Office of Legal Services. We are also forwarding our findings to the New York State Education Department and to Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark for whatever action she deems appropriate.

Should you have any inquiries regarding the above, please contact Special Counsel Valerie A. Batista, the attorney assigned to the case. She can be reached at (212) 510-1417 or vbatista@nycsci.org. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ANASTASIA COLEMAN
Special Commissioner of Investigation
for the New York City School District

By: /s/ Daniel I. Schlachet
Daniel I. Schlachet
First Deputy Commissioner

AC:DS:VB:lr

cc: Elizabeth Vladeck, Esq.
Karen Antoine, Esq.
Katherine Rodi, Esq.