

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

80 MAIDEN LANE, 20TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10038

ANASTASIA COLEMAN
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (212) 510-1400
Fax: (212) 510-1550
WWW.NYCSCI.ORG

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 20, 2025

Hon. Melissa Aviles-Ramos
Chancellor
New York City Public Schools
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street, Room 314
New York, NY 10007

Re: Victor Garrido
Donald Garner
Dulce Infante
Transcend Business Solutions, LLC
Clark & Garner, LLC
SCI Case #: 2021-1444

Dear Chancellor Aviles-Ramos:

An investigation conducted by this office has substantiated that Victor Garrido (“Garrido”), owner of non-New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) contracted vendor Transcend Business Solutions, LLC (“Transcend”), and Donald Garner, owner of non-DOE contracted vendor Clarke & Garner, LLC (“C&G”), conspired to circumvent the DOE bidding process by supplying artificial bids of other vendors as part of the three-bid process for all contracts awarded to Transcend. The investigation also substantiated that DOE School Secretary Dulce Infante (“Infante”), assigned to Public School 192 (“P.S. 192”) in Manhattan, allowed Garrido access to the DOE Galaxy system by providing Garrido with her username and password.^{1,2}

¹ No one was reassigned during this investigation, and no problem codes were issued.

² As part of a plea agreement, Garrido surrendered to the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) on March 19, 2025, and pleaded guilty to one count of a violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §1, on the same day in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (“SDNY”). On August 19, 2025, in SDNY, Garrido was sentenced to six months imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release, restitution in the amount of \$141,511.00 to the DOE, and restitution in the amount of \$23,100.00 to the New York State Department of Labor (“DOL”). Transcend was sentenced to two years’ probation and was ordered jointly and severally liable for Garrido’s restitution to the DOE on the same date.

I. Investigation & Findings:

The investigation began in April 2021, when the office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) received a complaint from a confidential complainant (“CC”), who reported that CC believed that Transcend Owner Garrido, whom CC said was a former DOE-employee, was selling “business services” to DOE schools using credentials of DOE principals to access DOE systems, and was billing for services not provided.

SCI investigators spoke with CC, who said that sometime in Spring 2020, District 6 Budget Director Denise Vispisiano (“Vispiano”) informed CC that Garrido was once a business manager in District 6 but left the DOE in 2019.³ CC stated that Vispisiano was the source of the allegations contained in CC’s complaint, and that Transcend was not a DOE-contracted vendor.

Investigators spoke with District 6 Budget Director Vispisiano, who said that early in the 2020-2021 school year, she learned that Garrido began working for Transcend. Transcend offered budgeting and professional development help for principals of District 6 schools. Several District 6 schools began using the services of Transcend. Vispisiano noticed that these schools were making similar improper budget modifications. Having worked with Garrido before, Vispisiano believed that the modifications looked like budget modifications that Garrido had made in the past. Vispisiano suspected that Garrido was personally making these modifications in Galaxy using the login credentials of someone from the DOE. Sometime in January or February 2021, Vispisiano was working on the budget for P.S. 192. She attempted to fix a line in the budget, but every time she removed the entry and freed up the associated money, someone at the school moved the money somewhere else. Vispisiano discovered that these moves were being made using P.S. 192 School Secretary Infante’s login credentials. When Vispisiano contacted Infante, Infante said, “Victor is doing that.” Vispisiano further told investigators that in March 2021, she discovered that a purchase order for Transcend in the amount of \$24,830.00 was paid in full in January 2021. Given that the services alleged to have been provided by Transcend only began in December 2020, Vispisiano said that it was “highly unlikely” that all of the services noted on the purchase order a month later were completed in that short timeframe. Vispisiano told investigators that it was possible that Garrido could have obtained access to the DOE’s Financial Accounting Management Information System (“FAMIS”) to submit this and other suspicious purchase orders himself. Vispisiano learned from District 6 DOE Procurement Specialist Syed Ali (“Ali”) that more than one District 6 school submitted the same three bids to Ali’s office for services from Transcend, leading Vispisiano to believe that all three bids were generated by Garrido. Vispisiano added that only DOE employees are allowed access to Galaxy and FAMIS, and that it would be a violation of DOE policy for a DOE employee to allow anyone outside of the DOE to use their login credentials.

Under guidelines contained in Section 3-10(b)(2) of the DOE Division of Contracts and Purchasing publication *Procurement Policy and Procedures*, procurement of services in an amount greater than \$5,000.00 requires the solicitation of written bids from at least three vendors.

Also, as part of a plea agreement, Garner surrendered to the FBI on March 20, 2025, and also pleaded guilty to one count of a violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §1, on the same day in S.D.N.Y. On July 31, 2025, in SDNY, Garner was sentenced to time served with three years of supervised release, a fine of \$20,000.00, and restitution in the amount of \$35,216.70 to the DOL. C&G also received a fine of \$80,000.00 on the same date.

³ A DOE database search revealed that Garrido resigned from the DOE on January 14, 2019.

District 6 DOE Procurement Specialist Ali told SCI investigators that he noticed that, beginning in December 2020, several schools in District 6 were submitting the same three bids for services at their respective schools. All of the schools wanted to use the services of Transcend. The three bids were all from Transcend, C&G, and Planning for Success (“PFS”), and the bids of C&G and PFS were sometimes for the same dollar amount. Ali counted 17 schools that submitted bids from the same three vendors, which was a remarkable coincidence. Ali also noticed that seven schools submitted purchase orders from Transcend for \$24,830.00, four schools submitted purchase orders from Transcend for \$13,680.00, four schools submitted purchase orders from Transcend for \$9,980.00, one school submitted a purchase order from Transcend for \$7,500.00, and one school submitted a purchase order from Transcend for \$6,840.00. Ali provided all of the bids and purchase orders to SCI investigators.

Investigators reviewed the three bids for services at the 17 District 6 schools provided by Ali and noted that the bids for C&G were exactly the same for all 17 schools, while the bids for PFS were exactly the same for 15 of the schools, and the bids of PFS for the other two schools were in a different amount than the other 15 bids, but the same as each other.

Investigators spoke with P.S. 192 School Secretary Infante, who said that sometime in 2021, she was instructed by P.S. 192 Principal Hilduara Abreu to speak with Garrido about using Transcend’s business services for the school. Infante said that she understood the three-bid process but had difficulty finding other companies to submit bids for the business services, so she asked Garrido for assistance. Garrido provided bids from C&G and PFS which were higher than Transcend’s bids. When Infante told Garrido that she was having trouble understanding the Galaxy system, Garrido said that he could assist her. Infante gave Garrido her Galaxy login credentials and allowed Garrido to make budget modifications in Galaxy on her behalf.

SCI investigators were able to confirm with administrators from 15 District 6 schools that did business with Transcend that Garrido supplied all three bids for contracts awarded to Transcend.⁴

As noted in footnote 2, Garrido pleaded guilty to one count of violating the federal Sherman Antitrust Act in the S.D.N.Y. on March 19, 2025. Garrido admitted in open court on that date that he conspired with Garner to submit to the DOE artificial bids allegedly from other vendors that were higher than Transcend’s bids to ensure that Transcend would win the DOE contracts.

Garner also pleaded guilty to one count of violating the federal Sherman Antitrust Act in the S.D.N.Y. on March 20, 2025. Garner admitted in open court on that date that he conspired with Garrido to submit to the DOE artificial bids from C&G that were higher than Transcend’s bids to ensure that Transcend would win the DOE contracts.⁵

⁴ The schools were P.S. 4, P.S. 8, P.S. 28, P.S. 48, P.S. 98, P.S. 153, P.S. 173, P.S. 189, P.S. 192, Hamilton Grange Middle School, Middle School (“M.S.”) 319, M.S. 322, High School for Media and Communications, High School for Law and Public Service, and Intermediate School 528M.

⁵ When SCI investigators spoke with Garner – who is also a former DOE employee – in November 2021, Garner claimed that he did not know who Garrido was, and feigned concern that either Transcend improperly submitted bids on C&G’s behalf, or that someone at C&G submitted unauthorized bids on C&G’s behalf.

II. Conclusion and Recommendation:

Upon review of the above facts, SCI substantiated that non-DOE contracted vendor Transcend Owner Victor Garrido and non-DOE contracted vendor C&G Owner Donald Garner conspired to circumvent the DOE bidding process by supplying artificial bids of other vendors as part of the three-bid process for all contracts awarded to Transcend. The investigation also substantiated that DOE School Secretary Dulce Infante allowed Garrido access to the DOE Galaxy system by providing Garrido with her username and password.

Neither Garrido nor Garner are current DOE employees, and both have been sentenced in federal court for the crimes discovered during this investigation. It is the recommendation of this office that the DOE terminate all contracts with Garrido and Garner, and any entities associated with Garrido and Garner. It is also the recommendation of this office that Garrido and Garner, or any entities associated with Garrido and Garner, be prohibited from conducting business with the DOE in any capacity in the future, and that problem codes be attached to their names to serve as a reminder should either seek future employment with the DOE or any of its vendors.

It is the recommendation of this office that Infante's employment with the DOE be terminated, and that a problem code be attached to her personnel file to serve as a reminder should Infante seek future employment with the DOE or any of its vendors.

Please respond in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter as to any action taken regarding Victor Garrido, Donald Garner, and Dulce Infante, or the recommendations made herein. We are sending a copy of this letter to the DOE Office of Legal Services.

Should you have any inquiries regarding the above, please contact David Casanova, the assigned attorney for this matter, at (212) 510-1419 or dcasanova@nycsci.org.

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:DC:lr

c: Elizabeth Vladeck, Esq.
Karen Antoine, Esq.
Katherine Rodi, Esq.
Monica Davis-Thorne, Director