

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

**SCI INVESTIGATION SUBSTANTIATES FORMER NYC DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION TEACHER IN QUEENS ENGAGED IN SEXUAL MISCONDUCT WITH
FORMER STUDENT**

*SCI Found Former Teacher Engaged in Non-Consensual Sexual Conduct and Inappropriate
Communications with a Student Beginning When She Was 16 Years Old*

*SCI Recommended Termination and Permanent Employment Restrictions Following
Investigation*

July 21, 2026

New York, NY – Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (SCI) Anastasia Coleman announced that an SCI investigation substantiated that New York City Department of Education teacher Lennard Persaud, formerly assigned to John Adams High School in Queens, engaged in non-consensual sexual conduct and inappropriate communications with a former student while she was between 16-and 17-years old.

“Lennard Persaud's conduct was egregious, dangerous, and predatory, and he has no place working in a school or anywhere around children,” **said Special Commissioner Anastasia Coleman.** “Teachers are entrusted with the safety and well-being of their students, and anyone who exploits that trust and their position of authority over adolescents must be held accountable. SCI will continue aggressively investigating allegations of sexual misconduct to protect students and ensure our schools remain safe learning environments.”

SCI's investigation began in April 2023 after receiving information that a former student alleged Persaud sexually assaulted her multiple times while she attended John Adams High School. According to the investigation, the misconduct occurred between 2014 and 2016, when the student was 16 and 17 years old during the student's junior and senior years of high school

SCI's investigation substantiated that Persaud engaged in non-consensual sexual intercourse with the former student on numerous occasions and maintained sexually explicit and inappropriate communications with a student. Investigators also interviewed former students who corroborated aspects of the relationship and described observing the student's emotional distress during the relevant period, including having “breakdowns” and “crying a lot in school”

During the investigation, SCI reviewed text message exchanges containing explicit sexual content between Persaud and the former student. Persaud declined to be interviewed by SCI citing his tenured status.

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Persaud was arrested by the New York City Police Department in June 2023 on charges including Rape in the Third Degree, Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree. In January 2024, he pleaded guilty to Disorderly Conduct, a violation, and received a conditional discharge.

Based on its findings, SCI substantiated the allegations and recommended that Persaud's employment with the Department of Education be terminated and that the problem code attached to his personnel file remain in place to prevent future employment with the DOE or its vendors. SCI also referred the findings to the New York State Education Department for appropriate action.

About SCI

Established in 1990, SCI is the independent watchdog that investigates fraud, corruption, misconduct, and other illegal, unethical or improper activities by officials, employees, contractors, and vendors doing business with New York City's School District, the Department of Education, the Teachers' Retirement System, and the Board of Education Retirement System. For more information on SCI, visit: www.nycsci.org.

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Press Contact:

Anna Correa, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs
Acorrea@nycsci.org; pressoffice@nycsci.org; 212-510-1493