

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

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 23, 2025

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

Re: Lennard Persaud (Rev. 6-13-25)
SCI Case #: 2023-3968

Dear Chancellor Aviles-Ramos:

An investigation conducted by this office has substantiated that New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) Teacher Lennard Persaud (“Persaud”), assigned to John Adams High School (“JAHS”) in Queens, had non-consensual sexual intercourse with a former female student (“Student A”) on numerous occasions, and engaged in inappropriate communications with former Student A, when former Student A was between 16- and 17-years old.¹

I. Investigation & Findings:

The investigation began in April 2023, when the office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) received a complaint from [REDACTED], who reported that former Student A informed [REDACTED] that Persaud sexually assaulted former Student A on multiple occasions in the Casino World parking lot around the corner from JAHS, from October 2014 to June 2016, during former Student A’s junior and senior years of high school.²

Former Student A told SCI investigators that she was having a “difficult time” dealing with the incident, and did not want to speak further about this case. Former Student A did say that Persaud

¹ Persaud was reassigned during this investigation, and there is a problem code attached to his name.

² Persaud was arrested by NYPD Officer Marriott on June 21, 2023, and charged with the felonies of Rape in the Third Degree (New York Penal Law (“P.L.”) §130.25(2)) and Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree (P.L. §130.40(2)), and the misdemeanors of Endangering the Welfare of a Child (P.L. §260.10(1)) and Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree (P.L. §130.55). Persaud ultimately pleaded guilty to the violation of Disorderly Conduct (P.L. §240.20) on January 26, 2024, in Queens Criminal Court, and received a conditional discharge.

contacted her from multiple phone numbers, and that Persaud had former Student A download an unknown application on her phone that prevented Persaud's number from appearing on her phone.³

██████████ provided SCI investigators with the notes of ██████████ interview with former Student A, as well as screen captures of text messages between Persaud and former Student A. According to ██████████ interview of former Student A, in October 2014, Persaud took former Student A in his car to get food and pulled into an alleyway near a Rite Aid. Persaud touched former Student A's leg with his hand, but former Student A pushed his hand away. Persaud then pulled former Student A by her shirt collar and kissed her on the lips. Former Student A told Persaud to stop, but he continued. Persaud placed his hand inside former Student A's pants and inserted a finger in her vagina. Former Student A "clawed" at Persaud to get away, and yelled, "Stop! Take me home!"

In June 2015, while former Student A was working for a summer program at JAHS, Persaud told former Student A to meet him in the parking lot. Former Student A met with Persaud in the parking lot and got into Persaud's car. Persaud drove to the parking lot of Casino World on Rockaway Boulevard in Queens. Persaud picked former Student A up from the passenger seat and placed her on his lap. Persaud pulled his pants down and penetrated former Student A's vagina with his penis. Former Student A asked Persaud to stop several times, but Persaud did not.

On another occasion in June 2015, Persaud again drove former Student A to the Casino World parking lot, where he penetrated her anally with his penis. Former Student A said that there were multiple other occasions between October 2014 and August 2016 when Persaud engaged in vaginal, anal, and oral sex with former Student A. The incidents stopped when former Student A left for college in August 2016.

Below are a selection of some of the text message exchanges between Persaud and former Student A between November 2016 and September 2017:

Text Exchange 1

Former Student A: *Great pd over no cramps*

Persaud: *Great, now I can fu*

Text Exchange 2

Persaud: *Send me pic then, just of you*

Text Exchange 3

Persaud: *So mad at you*

Former Student A: *Me, seriously, no I'm the one who's flipping mad at you*

Persaud: *My coc want you, so hard*

³ SCI investigators were unable to obtain phone records for the phone number on file for Persaud at the time of the incidents because Persaud used a service from a company named Twilio. Representatives from Twilio said that they were unable to obtain subscriber information from that period for the number used by Persaud. SCI investigators were also unable to obtain phone records for the T-Mobile phone number used by former Student A because representatives from T-Mobile said that the "records were inaccessible at this time due to data migration."

Text Exchange 4

Persaud: *You have a great ass, wear tight jeans, will show*

Text Exchange 5

Persaud: *He can't stop thinking about that day, do you still think about that day
I need you in my life, even as a friend*

Former Student A: *Take the time to relax and not do anything bad*

Persaud: *Like fy, when we doing that*

Former Student A: *OMG, you need to actually like lay in bed with wife and kids and enjoy
family time*

Persaud: *U wearing grey panties right now*

Former Student A: *How do you know that*

Persaud: *I put cameras on you, sens pic, for me*

Text Exchange 6

Persaud: *I love fu though, your p is so sweet*

Text Exchange 7

Persaud: *U always want to get f, but you always say no*

Text Exchange 8

Persaud: *So see u tomorrow wear dress*

Former Student A: *No, can we just not do that*

Persaud: *Do what, f each other*

Text Exchange 9

Former Student A: *You love P's in general silly and lol what makes mine so different than
others*

Persaud: *Taste diff, feels diff, fresh, I am only one ever there*

SCI investigators spoke with a female former student ("Student B") who was friends with former Student A at JAHS. Former Student B said that she often saw Persaud talking with former Student A in the hallway at JAHS. Former Student A told former Student B that Persaud sent text messages to former Student A and would "try to do sexual things" with former Student A. Former Student B told investigators that former Student A often had "breakdowns" during this period which included crying, but former Student A never spoke about her relationship with Persaud to former Student B because Persaud "was always around."

SCI investigators also spoke with a male former student ("Student C") who was friends with former Student A at JAHS. Former Student C said that former Student A disclosed to him in 2018 that she was sexually assaulted by Persaud while they were at JAHS, and that some of the incidents happened in Persaud's car. Former Student C never witnessed anything inappropriate between former Student A and Persaud, but did notice former Student A "crying a lot in school."

Through his attorney, Persaud declined to speak with SCI investigators, citing his tenured status.⁴

II. **Conclusion and Recommendation:**

Upon review of the above facts, SCI substantiated that DOE Teacher Lennard Persaud had non-consensual sexual intercourse with a former female student on numerous occasions, and engaged in inappropriate communications with the former student, when that former student was between 16- and 17-years old. His conduct was not only egregious and dangerous but was predatory. It is clear that Persaud has no place working in a school or anywhere around children or adolescents. It is the recommendation of this office that Persaud's employment with the DOE be terminated, and that the problem code currently attached to his personnel file remain in place to serve as a reminder should Persaud 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 Lennard Persaud, or the recommendations made herein. We are sending a copy of this letter to the DOE Office of Legal Services. In addition, we are sending a copy of this letter to the New York State Education Department.

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

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

⁴ SCI investigators confirmed that Persaud was tenured under a Mathematics certificate on September 1, 2003.