

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

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

December 1, 2025

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

Re: Abi Corbin
Anthony Cromer
SCI Case #: 2024-07587

Dear Chancellor Aviles-Ramos:

An investigation conducted by this office has substantiated that New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) Community Associate Abi Corbin (“Corbin”), formerly assigned to East-West School of International Studies (“EWSIS”) in Queens, stole money from the DOE by: (1) repeatedly purchasing goods, services, and tickets to events for herself and her personal cheerleading business and submitting invoices for these purchases to the DOE for payment, (2) submitting false invoices for non-existent services by her business to the DOE for payment, and (3) forging official documents, including checks that she wrote to her business and another individual.¹ Moreover, EWSIS Principal Anthony Cromer (“Cromer”) disregarded Chancellor Regulations and other DOE rules when he failed to properly supervise Corbin, resulting in Corbin’s theft of nearly \$415,000.²

I. Investigation & Findings:

A. Initial Allegations

On July 31, 2024, the Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (“SCI”) received a complaint from EWSIS Principal Cromer, reporting EWSIS Community Associate Corbin for misconduct. Cromer stated that an EWSIS staff member brought to his

¹ As a result of this investigation, Corbin was reassigned and a problem code was associated with her personnel file. Effective August 5, 2024, Corbin was suspended without pay pending the outcome of the investigation. By letter dated October 20, 2024, Corbin resigned from the DOE, effective October 21, 2024. On October 16, 2025, Corbin was arrested and arraigned pursuant to a grand jury indictment by the Queens County District Attorney’s Office, charging her with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and Identity Theft in the First Degree.

² Cromer retired from the DOE, effective February 6, 2025.

attention that several boxes were delivered to the school the previous day, at least one of which was from “Cheerleading Company,” and addressed to Corbin. EWSIS does not have a cheerleading team. The staff member informed Cromer that she could not locate the boxes, nor their contents.³ Cromer knew that Corbin owned and operated “Queens Campus Cheer” (“QCC”), a private cheerleading company, which he knew Corbin had not submitted any paperwork for DOE approval. Cromer logged into the DOE Financial Accounting Management Information System (“FAMIS”) and found multiple suspicious purchases from various vendors in July 2024. Cromer contacted several of the vendors who provided receipts and/or item descriptions. All purchases were for QCC, with many items bearing logos associated with it. Cromer did not authorize any of these purchases.

On July 31, 2024, Cromer issued a formal letter to Corbin instructing her that she could no longer order or make purchases using FAMIS or using any school funds until further notice.

B. Corbin’s Background and Access to Ordering System

Cromer told SCI investigators that he knew Corbin owned and operated QCC and provided a program booklet for Queens Campus Cheer’s “10th Anniversary Scholarship and Award Gala,” dated May 18, 2024, held at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale, New York, which listed Corbin as the Director and Founder of QCC. Cromer stated that Corbin never submitted paperwork to DOE for approval to operate it. Cromer believed that Corbin volunteered her company to cheer at events for Eagle Academy for Young Men III in Queens, and stated that he attended events for QCC, including the 10th anniversary event.⁴

Cromer explained to SCI investigators that Corbin was assigned as EWSIS’s business manager responsible for, among other things, making all purchases for the school and processing vendor work orders in FAMIS. Cromer admitted that he provided Corbin with his FAMIS password so that she could sign off and approve work orders. Cromer also stated that Corbin was responsible for the school’s budgeting and that he provided Corbin with his GALAXY password for budgeting purposes.⁵

Further, Cromer stated that Corbin was the treasurer for EWSIS’s General School Fund (“GSF”), maintained at JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. Cromer admitted that he authorized Corbin to sign documents and checks with his signature stamp, even though only he, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]

³ SCI investigators reviewed security camera footage from various DOE cameras and observed the following: the delivery was made at approximately 12:38 p.m. A little more than one hour later, Corbin was seen inspecting the boxes and moving them with the assistance of several students. A little more than one hour after that, Corbin was seen loading six boxes and a small package onto a dolly and leaving them by an exit. Approximately 20 minutes later, she was observed taking the packages out of the building and loading them into a waiting double-parked car with the assistance of the driver, with whom she was seen driving away.

⁴ SCI investigators spoke to [REDACTED], who stated that he allowed Corbin’s privately run and funded cheerleading company to cheer for the school at football and basketball games. [REDACTED] stated his school did not provide any funding or supplies to QCC, but at times, allowed it to use the school’s space to practice.

⁵ GALAXY is the school-based budgeting system.

██████████ were the authorized signatories on the GSF bank account.⁶ When requested by SCI investigators, Cromer could not locate EWSIS's school checking ledger or financial documents for the GSF account.

Cromer admitted that he did not check Corbin's work because he trusted her.

C. Investigative Findings

On August 15, 2024, EWSIS notified SCI that Corbin submitted a purchase order (WO250001240) totaling \$3,600 on July 16, 2024, for transportation services for 55 passengers traveling to and from Queens, New York to Greeley, Pennsylvania on August 20-23, 2024. The invoice from the transportation vendor listed EWSIS as the recipient of services, but EWSIS indicated that the services were not associated with the school and that Corbin was not authorized to charge those services to it. Cromer reported that the transportation services were cancelled.

EWSIS provided numerous purchase orders to SCI that were submitted by Corbin through FAMIS, which were then paid to vendors by the DOE's Department of Finance ("DOF"). Further, DOE's Division of Contracts & Purchasing ("DCP") provided SCI with all purchase orders for EWSIS for the period from June 2021 to September 2024. SCI investigators identified purchase orders submitted by Corbin that appeared to be linked either to Corbin personally or to Corbin's cheerleading company. For these transactions, SCI investigators contacted the vendors and requested and received many of the invoices correlating to the purchase orders.

Cromer reviewed EWSIS purchase orders provided by DCP, and many vendor invoices related to those purchase orders, and identified 128 purchase orders that Corbin submitted through FAMIS on behalf of EWSIS but were in actuality for her personal use or use by her cheerleading company. Each purchase order listed Cromer as the Principal or authorized DOE official approving the order. Cromer stated that Corbin did not have permission or authority to make these purchases using DOE funds allocated to EWSIS, totaling \$355,722.49.

1. Payments to Corbin's Cheerleading Business

Four of the 128 unauthorized purchase orders between August 2022 and July 2024, totaling \$54,300.00, were directly for Corbin's cheerleading company.⁷ Corbin entered the purchase orders on FAMIS and fraudulently coded the expenditures as either "Professional Serv – Educational" or "Office Services," even though QCC did not provide any services to EWSIS or DOE.

⁶ Both ████████ and ████████ told SCI investigators that Corbin gave each of them a stamp of their respective signatures, which neither ever requested nor used. Both ████████ and ████████ were unaware that Corbin also possessed a separate stamp for each of their signatures.

⁷ Purchase Orders were as follows: WO230003477 on August 11, 2022 for \$15,000.00 (noted as "Student Workshops Music Movement"), WO230024247 on November 2, 2022 for \$10,300.00 (noted as "Afterschool Programming"), W0240000562 on July 11, 2023 for \$24,000.00 (noted as "Afterschool Programming"), and W0250000491 on July 8, 2024 for \$5,000.00 (noted as "Summer Workshop Sessions").

2. Payments to Vendors for Corbin's Cheerleading Business

Of the 128 unauthorized purchases, 116 purchase orders between July 2021 and July 2024, totaling \$255,052.49, were for purchases of items or services for Corbin's cheerleading company, including, for example, the following:

- 19 purchase orders between July 2021 and July 2024, totaling \$116,412.20, related to Varsity Spirit Fashions for logoed cheerleading uniforms, apparel and supplies.⁸
- 22 purchase orders between July 2021 and July 2024, totaling \$29,558.62, related to Cheerleading Company Inc. for logoed cheerleading uniforms, apparel, and supplies.
- One purchase order in March 2023, totaling \$22,000.00, with KGT Designs and Rentals LLC for the Cheerleading Award & Dinner Gala on May 20, 2023, for up to 150 attendees, which included the banquet room transformation, food, drinks, flowers, balloons, and a photo booth.
- 10 purchase orders between July 2021 and July 2024, totaling \$14,540.30, related to Midwest Impressions Inc. for logoed cheerleading uniforms, apparel, and supplies.
- 14 purchase orders between July 2021 and July 2024, totaling \$13,706.66, related to 4Imprint Inc. for logoed cheerleading apparel, bottles, bags, and supplies.
- Six purchase orders between January 2022 and July 2024, totaling \$8,895.45, related to It's Greek to Me, Inc. for various logoed Champion branded cheerleading apparel.
- Three purchase orders between January 2023 and March 2024, totaling \$5,500.00, related to two trophy stores – Crown Awards and Trophies Plus Inc. – for trophies, rings, crystals, and awards.
- Two purchase orders between January and March 2024, totaling \$2,771.93, related to All Borough Party Rentals for rental tables and chairs.
- Two purchase orders between September 2021 and February 2022, totaling \$682.98, related to New England Flag & Banner for cheerleading flag and pole.

⁸ References to logos in this document refer to logos associated with QCC and/or the Eagles, the mascot for Eagle Academy for Young Men III.

3. Payments to Vendors for Sports Tickets for Corbin and/or Her Business

Further, eight of the 128 unauthorized purchase orders between February 2023 and March 2024 were for tickets to sporting events for Corbin's personal use or use by her cheerleading company, as follows:⁹

- Three separate purchase orders on four dates between April 2023 and March 2024, totaling \$23,678.00, related to Sterling Mets LP for New York Mets baseball game tickets, including four season tickets to 16 Saturday games and a deposit for season ticket renewal. Corbin noted these purchase orders in FAMIS as either "Admission Fees & Field Trip Expenses" or "Parent Involvement – Other Activities." Cromer told SCI investigators that EWSIS never participated in any trips to a Mets game. Furthermore, SCI investigators found social media posts made by Corbin in which she offered for sale four tickets to Saturday Mets baseball games played on June 3, 2023, June 17, 2023, and July 15, 2023, and tickets to the Mets opening day game on March 28, 2024.
- Two separate purchase orders on February 15, 2023, and September 7, 2023, totaling \$12,595.00, related to Brooklyn Nets LLC for Nets basketball game tickets. The purchase orders were for 125 tickets to a March 21, 2023 game, and 120 tickets to a December 2, 2023 game, respectively. Corbin noted these purchase orders in FAMIS as "Admission Fees & Field Trip Expenses." Cromer provided SCI investigators with a social media post made by Corbin in which she announced that QCC would perform at halftime of the Nets game on March 21, 2023, and offering tickets to that game for \$40 each.
- One purchase order on August 3, 2023, totaling \$7,700.00, related to NY Football Giants Inc. for Giants football game tickets. The tickets consisted of 10 tickets to a game against the Washington Commanders that included access to the club area (\$6,000.00), and 10 tickets to a game against the Dallas Cowboys (\$1,700.00). Corbin noted these purchase orders in FAMIS as "Admission Fees & Field Trip Expenses."
- One purchase order dated March 22, 2024, totaling \$2,397.00, related to MSG Sports and Entertainment LLC for 17 Rangers ice hockey game tickets on April 15, 2024. Corbin noted this purchase order in FAMIS as "Admission Fees & Field Trip Expenses."

⁹ Two of these purchases from two separate dates were listed under one purchase order number, WO240023678 related to Sterling Mets LP – 10/16/23 for \$10,000.00 and 1/8/24 for \$3,573.00.

4. Corbin's Theft from EWSIS's GSF Checking Account

As previously indicated, Corbin was the treasurer of EWSIS's GSF maintained at Chase Bank and possessed Cromer's signature stamp. Cromer authorized Corbin to sign documents and checks for legitimate purposes with that signature stamp. Between December 2022 and May 2024, Corbin issued 15 checks from EWSIS's GSF to her cheerleading business using similar but varying names as the payee of the checks. She signed Cromer's name to the checks using the signature stamp. Corbin did not have permission or authority to issue these checks to her cheerleading business, which did not provide any services to EWSIS or DOE. The checks were as follows:

Date	#	Payee	Amount
12/16/2022	1038	Queens Campus Cheer	\$2,000.00
2/3/2023	1043	Queens Campus Cheer	\$5,516.00
2/28/2023	1048	Queens Campus	\$1,250.00
3/28/2023	1053	Queens Cheer LLC	\$5,500.00
9/8/2023	1078	Queens Campus Cheer	\$1,000.00
11/17/2023	1090	Queens Cheerleading	\$8,070.00
12/4/2023	1092	Queens Cheer	\$5,700.00
12/22/2023	1098	Queens Cheer	\$1,000.00
1/12/2024	1101	Queens Cheer	\$2,315.00
2/5/2024	1105	Queens Cheer	\$2,000.00
2/21/2024	1111	Queens Campus LLC	\$3,003.99
3/13/2024	1118	Queens Cheer LLC	\$5,950.00
5/8/2024	1125	Queens Cheer	\$2,000.00
5/17/2024	1131	Queens Cheer	\$1,500.00
5/18/2024	1132	Queens Cheer LLC	\$500.00

In addition, between January and April 2023, Corbin issued two checks from EWSIS's GSF to an individual named Cheryl Martin, without EWSIS or Cromer's permission or authority, signing Cromer's name using the signature stamp, as follows:

Date	#	Payee	Amount
1/30/2023	1044	██████████	\$4,500.00
4/5/2023	1058	██████████	\$4,500.00

The 15 checks to Corbin's cheerleading business totaled \$47,304.99 and the two checks to ██████████ totaled \$9,000.00. As such, Corbin stole \$56,304.99 from the EWSIS GSF account.

II. Conclusion & Recommendations:

SCI's investigation revealed that from 2021 to 2024, Community Associate Abi Corbin stole approximately \$412,027.48 from the DOE by: (1) submitting purchase orders for non-existent services by her cheerleading company, which the DOE paid, totaling \$54,300.00; (2) submitting purchase orders for goods and services for herself and her cheerleading company, which the DOE paid, totaling \$255,052.49; (3) submitting purchase orders for sporting even tickets for herself and her cheerleading company, which the DOE paid, totaling \$46,370.00; and (4) issuing checks to her cheerleading company and another individual from EWSIS's GSF bank account, totaling \$56,304.99. Furthermore, Corbin forged Cromer's name on the purchase orders to approve the above-referenced purchases, which the DOE paid, and also forged Cromer's name using a signature stamp on checks she fraudulently issued to her cheerleading business.

Corbin was able to continuously steal from DOE for over three years in part because EWSIS Principal Cromer egregiously and negligently disregarded the Chancellor's Regulation and DOE DCP rules, and blindly trusted Corbin despite her stealing over \$400,000 from the school and DOE. He admitted giving Corbin his login and password to budget and ordering systems, allowed her to approve purchase orders, and gave her the stamp of his signature to use on checks and other financial documents, all with unfettered access and without any supervisory oversight into her spending and abuse.

Although Corbin has already resigned her position with the DOE, and is currently facing prosecution in Queens County, we recommend that the DOE ensure that the problem code associated with her personnel file remains in place should she seek future employment with the DOE, within any of its facilities, or with any of its vendors. Additionally, the DOE should make every effort to recuperate all monies Corbin stole through the use of purchase orders and forging checks, totaling \$412,027.48, identified herein.

We also note that the conduct of Abi Corbin may have violated the conflicts of interest provisions of the New York City Charter, which is administered by the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board.

As Anthony Cromer has already retired from his position with the DOE, it is the recommendation of this office that a problem code be associated with his personnel file should he seek future employment with the DOE, within any of its facilities, or with any of its vendors.

Please respond in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter as to any action taken or contemplated regarding Abi Corbin, Anthony Cromer, and the recommendations made herein. We are sending a copy of this letter to the DOE Office of Legal Services and the New York State Education Department for whatever action they deem appropriate.

Should you have any inquiries regarding the above, please contact Michael Choi, the assigned attorney for this matter, at (212) 510-1438 or mchoi@nycsci.org.

Sincerely,

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

By: /s/ Michael S. Choi
Michael S. Choi
Deputy Commissioner

AC:MC:lr

cc: Elizabeth Vladeck, Esq.
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