

CITY OF NEW YORK
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**SCI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO GUILTY PLEA BY FORMER QUEENS SCHOOL
EMPLOYEE WHO STOLE NEARLY A HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN SCHOOL
FUNDS**

*Former Community Associate Used School Funds to Purchase Merchandise and Equipment for
Her Private Cheerleading Company*

10/6/2026

New York, NY – Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (SCI) Anastasia Coleman announced that an SCI investigation led to the guilty plea of former New York City Department of Education (DOE) Community Associate Abi Corbin, who stole approximately \$415,000 from the East-West School of International Studies (P.S. 281Q) in Flushing, and used school funds to purchase merchandise and equipment for her private cheerleading company, Queens Campus Cheer.

Corbin pleaded guilty today to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and is expected to be sentenced to five years' probation. As part of the disposition, Corbin also entered into a confession of judgment.

"There is nothing to cheer about when nearly \$415,000 intended for a public school is stolen for personal gain," **said Special Commissioner Anastasia Coleman**. "This was an egregious abuse of a position of trust, and this guilty plea makes clear that those who exploit their positions for personal gain will be held accountable. SCI thanks the Queens County District Attorney's Office for prosecuting this matter.

SCI's investigation found that Corbin, while employed as a community associate at the East-West School of International Studies, was responsible for making purchases for the school and processing orders through the school's financial management system.

From approximately July 2021 through July 2024, Corbin used the school principal's login credentials and signature to authorize purchase orders for cheerleading merchandise, equipment, and other materials for Queens Campus Cheer, her private company. The purchases totaled approximately \$415,000.

The scheme came to light in July 2024 after several boxes containing cheerleading merchandise were delivered to the school – but P.S. 281Q did not have a cheerleading team. Corbin's private cheerleading team, Queens Campus Cheer, was also not affiliated with the school or the DOE.

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Following SCI's investigation, Corbin was indicted on charges of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and Identity Theft in the First Degree.

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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