

CITY OF NEW YORK
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Principal Arrested For Theft Of School Funds

Yesterday, investigators from the office of Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon arrested Joanne Pierre, the principal of the Rachel Carson High School For Coastal Studies in Brooklyn. Pierre was charged with four felonies: Grand Larceny in the 3rd and 4th, Falsifying Business Records in the 1st, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st. She also faces the misdemeanor charge of Official Misconduct. If convicted of the top count, the maximum sentence Pierre could receive would be up to 7 years in State prison.

The investigation found that Pierre stole more than \$10,000 in Department of Education funds through a scheme by which she received reimbursement for items she never purchased or for items she returned. The theft began while Pierre was assigned as a Curriculum Instructional Specialist for Citywide Alternative Schools & Programs and continued when she assumed her position at Rachel Carson.

When it was clear that SCI had developed significant evidence against Pierre, the Department of Education was notified, and she was reassigned to the Regional Office. However, Pierre never appeared at that assignment.

The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the criminal case. The Special Commissioner thanks the members of DA Hynes's staff and the NYPD personnel who assisted with this matter; in particular, Sergeant Dominick Longo, Detective Pak Tang, and Detective George Allende who helped process the arrest, and Assistant District Attorney Tanisha Simon who will handle the case.

Questions should be referred to Aquila Haynes at (212) 510-1479.

Special Commissioner Condon is a Deputy Commissioner to Department of Investigation Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.