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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report detailing an investigation which found that Custodian Kim Tatum, while assigned to PS 84 in Brooklyn, created time records and other documents which falsely indicated that Dwight Beharrie was working as a cleaner at PS 84. These time records covered the periods from January 25, 2006 to May 31, 2006, and August 16, 2007 to January 24, 2008. An analysis of Tatum's payroll records showed that, during those periods, Tatum paid Beharrie more than $14,000 in Department of Education ("DOE") funds to which he was not entitled. An analysis of Beharrie's bank records revealed that he received and deposited the checks.

Tatum and Beharrie claimed that Beharrie actually worked the hours for which Tatum paid him and both denied that Beharrie received any funds to which he was not entitled. However, the other custodial workers at PS 84 confirmed that they did not see Beharrie at the school when Tatum's records indicated that his hours overlapped with their hours. In addition, DOE staff assigned to the PS 84 office – where the time clock is located – could not identify Beharrie when shown his photograph, although they knew the other custodial employees.

The Special Commissioner recommended that Tatum's employment be terminated and that she and Beharrie be made ineligible for work in the City school system. He also referred the findings of the investigation to Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes.

The Office of the Special Commissioner of Investigation is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and Special Commissioner Condon reports to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.