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THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION
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Report Released Today

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon released a report describing an investigation which found that Debbie Rizzo, a school secretary assigned to Middle College High School at LaGuardia Community College in Queens, misappropriated thousands of dollars in public funds using a Department of Education (“DOE”) Procurement Card (“P Card”) and the Small Item Payment Process (“SIPP”).

Using the school’s P Card, Rizzo purchased children’s books, stuffed animals, shoe bags, a hamper, a men’s sweater, BlackBerry device accessories, “Webkinz,” ceiling fans, an iPod docking station, a Notebook computer, a couch, a washer and dryer combination, and other items for her personal use or for use by family members. Using checks generated through SIPP, Rizzo paid her personal cell phone bills and car service invoices for charges incurred by Rizzo and her family members.

Special Commissioner Condon recommended to Chancellor Klein that Rizzo be made ineligible for employment in the City school system. He referred the findings to Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown for whatever action he deems appropriate.

Commissioner Condon again recommended that the DOE take whatever steps are necessary to correct the problems associated with school level finances.

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.