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NEWS RELEASE
January 21, 1999

UNFIT TEACHERS REPEATEDLY HIRED AS SUBSTITUTES

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Edward F. Stancik has scheduled a **press conference** for **11 a.m.** to release a report, *Recurring Nightmares: An Investigation Into The Repeated Hiring Of Substitute Teachers Unfit To Care For Children*, which details the troubling work histories of eight substitute teachers who continued to be hired in spite of their pasts.

- Despite being fired by both the Yonkers school system for incompetence and the NYC school system for corporal punishment, **James Branch** consistently obtained substitute work.
- **Daniel Sullivan** was fired by a private school for inappropriate contact with male students, only to be caught doing the same thing to boys in a NYC public school where he worked as a substitute.
- **Alan Simon** lost his job at Bushwick High School after being unable to handle his classes, only to be hired as a substitute at a junior high school where he inappropriately touched a female student.
- Despite being fired by the BOE for failing to intervene on behalf of a female student who was being sexually abused by a male classmate, **Desie Clemente** worked as a substitute.
- Despite being fired by the BOE fifteen years ago for physically abusing students under her care and being placed on the list of individuals not to be hired, **Hermine Brunson** was hired as a substitute and was arrested the same day for using a chair to hit two students in her class.
- **Stacey Glassman** fell asleep while the four 9-year-olds under her "supervision" ran amok. She was placed on the list of ineligible employees, nevertheless she continued to obtain substitute assignments.
- In 1993 and 1995 **Joseph Starace** was unable to obtain a regular teaching position with the BOE because he was rated "unsatisfactory," however, he repeatedly obtained substitute positions despite acting in a bizarre manner, showing students gory pictures, telling wild tales of his work in horror movies, attempting to obtain personal information about students, and giving out his "800" number.
- Despite exhibiting odd behavior during his substitute teaching assignments and making inappropriate sexual remarks to children, **Robert Friedman** continued to be hired.

The misconduct committed by these employees differed greatly, but the report indicates that they shared something in common: none should have been hired in the first place. With a minimum background check, such as telephone call to a prior employer and a check of the BOE's ineligible list, the past problems of these substitutes would have been discovered and they would have been kept out of the classroom. Yet the report reveals that little, if any, inquiry was made into the background of individuals seeking to hold substitute teaching positions.

As a result of such haphazard screening, the hiring of teachers who were not fit to hold the position was a problem throughout the school system. Recognizing the threat this problem poses to the welfare of the City's students, the report recommends requiring greater scrutiny of applicants, more responsible and consistent reporting of substitutes who should not be rehired by school administrators, and developing a centralized system that must be checked prior to hiring. It also recommends that the eight substitutes be kept out of the NYC school system.