



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23

June 10, 1995

MAYOR'S INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL SAFETY

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of the children in the public schools of the City are of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, at the same time that the number of reported crimes in major crime categories has declined throughout the City, the New York City schools have continued to experience an alarming incidence of crime and disciplinary problems involving students, teachers and school property, including the use and possession of deadly weapons and other serious offenses; and

WHEREAS, recent incidents involving alleged criminal activity and other misconduct by school safety officers have called into question the adequacy of the policies, practices and procedures governing hiring, training, supervision and discipline in the Division of School Safety; and

WHEREAS, questions have been raised as to the adequacy of the Division of School Safety's reporting on the level of criminal activity and other misconduct in the City's schools; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, as Chief Executive Officer of the City, wants to ensure that the welfare of the City's children is protected to the fullest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish a Commission to investigate promptly the effectiveness and adequacy of the present system employed by the Board of Education to provide for school safety, and in order to carry out such review, it is necessary that the Commission have the ability to investigate and gather information to the fullest extent possible, including the ability to request the Commissioner of Investigation to issue subpoenas where necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it hereby is ordered that:

Section 1. Establishment of Investigatory Commission.

There hereby is established an Investigatory Commission on School Safety (the "Commission"), which shall consist of five members appointed by the Mayor, who shall be residents of the City of New York or shall maintain a place of business in the City of New York. Each of the members shall serve without compensation. The Mayor shall appoint a Chairperson from among the members.

Section 2. Powers and Duties.

a. The Commission shall investigate the actual level of criminal activity and other misconduct in the City's schools, and further shall investigate the adequacy of the existing organization, practices, and policies of the school safety operations of the City School District, including the Division of School Safety of the Board of Education, in maintaining safety in

the City's schools. Such inquiry shall include, but not be limited to, an investigation of:

(1) the quality of the standards implemented for the hiring of School Safety Officers, including recruitment programs, screening, and employment criteria;

(2) the quality of the training of School Safety Officers, including off-site and on-the-job training;

(3) the quality of supervision of School Safety Officers;

(4) the quality of the policies and practices of the Division of School Safety governing discipline of School Safety Officers, and other matters relating to integrity and corruption prevention;

(5) the methods of deployment of School Safety Officers within the school system;

(6) the allocation of personnel and other resources to the Division of School Safety;

(7) the adequacy and accuracy of methods used to report criminal and other incidents in the schools; and

(8) the coordination of functions and other forms of cooperation between and among the Division of School Safety, the Police Department and other law enforcement agencies.

b. The Commission shall promptly report the results of its investigation to the Mayor and shall make such recommendations as it deems appropriate regarding changes in organization, practices, policies or procedures which will provide for stronger and more effective safeguards against crime and other disruptive conduct in the public schools.

c. In carrying out its mandate, the Commission may hold public hearings, and shall obtain all information and data necessary to prepare the report required by subdivision (b) of this section, including information from (1) the City School District, including the Board of Education, the Chancellor, the Community School Boards, the Community Superintendents, the Division of School Safety, and any other officer or employee of the school district, (2) the Police Department, and (3) any other law enforcement agencies having knowledge or information about school safety issues generally or with respect to specific cases, to the extent allowable by law.

d. The Commission is authorized to employ an Executive Director and other appropriate staff sufficient to carry out its mandate, and may also retain consultants and counsel to provide assistance in the performance of its duties, within available appropriations.

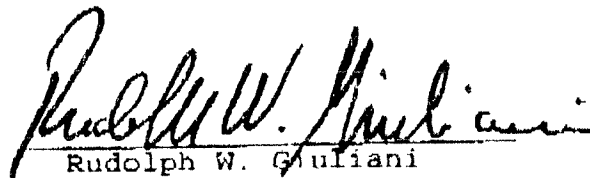
e. The investigations described in subdivision (a) of this section may include the issuance of subpoenas by the Department of Investigation in accordance with such Department's powers pursuant to Chapter 34 of the City Charter, to the extent that the Department determines is appropriate.

f. The Commission is empowered to act by a majority vote of its members.

Section 3. Agency Assistance and Cooperation. All City agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Operations, the Police Department, the Department of Investigation, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Law

Department, shall cooperate in providing to the Commission such personnel, facilities, information and other assistance as is necessary and required by the Commission to carry out its responsibilities.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Order shall take effect immediately.


Rudolph W. Giuliani
Mayor