

CITY OF NEW YORK  
**THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SEVEN PLEAD GUILTY IN SCHOOL CUSTODIAN CASE**

RICHARD CONDON, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (SCI), announced today that seven individuals have pleaded guilty in Bronx Supreme Court for receiving kickbacks and rigging bids on school contracts. With these pleas, SCI expects to receive nearly \$50,000 in restitution.

A total of 19 New York City public school custodians and a window cleaner contractor were charged in February with violating New York State's Donnelly Act. A joint investigation by SCI and the New York State Attorney General revealed that the school custodians regularly rigged bids and received kickbacks, ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 in cash, for contracts to clean windows in schools throughout New York City from 1996 through 2001.

"These guilty pleas are the results of a successful investigation and prosecution by SCI and the Attorney General's office," said Commissioner Condon. "We remain extremely vigilant in this area."

Commissioner Condon also said, "These crimes were easily perpetrated due to a flawed procurement process that distorts supply and demand in favor of corrupt custodians and vendors."

The seven custodians have been or will be sentenced to conditional discharges, which include a permanent bar from employment with the DOE or its affiliates.

Pleas so far:

**Ronald Alexander** of 130-22 228<sup>th</sup> Street, Laurelton, Queens. Alexander pleaded guilty to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, an "A" misdemeanor, and paid \$3,000 in restitution to the City through SCI. As part of the deal, he will resign on or before July 17. Alexander was assigned to the Richmond Hill High School, Queens.

**Kevin Davies** of 109 Beacon Court, Brooklyn. Davies pleaded guilty to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, an "A" misdemeanor, on June 10, 2003 in Bronx Supreme Court. He was

sentenced on Tuesday and is to resign from DOE on or before July 10, 2003. He paid \$4,000 in restitution to the City through SCI. Davies had been assigned to PS 62, Brooklyn.

**Donald Gardner** of 121-11 Newport Avenue, Rockaway Park, and 130 Pelham Road, New Rochelle. Gardner pleaded guilty June 10, 2003 to Combination in Restraint of Trade, an "E" felony. He is to pay \$10,000 in restitution to the City through SCI and resign from the DOE within 30 days. He had been assigned to PS 62, Richmond Hill.

**Michael A. Graffeo** of 87-80 120<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond Hill, Queens. Graffeo pleaded guilty to receiving a Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, an "A" misdemeanor. He must pay \$2,500 in restitution to the City through SCI within six months. He has retired from the DOE. Graffeo had been assigned to MS 216, Queens.

**Patrick Graffeo** of 12-23 Diane Place, Bayside, Queens and 9 North Gate Court, Melville, Long Island. Graffeo pleaded guilty to receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, an "A" Misdemeanor. He was sentenced on Tuesday and will pay \$15,000 in restitution to the City through SCI. He has retired from the DOE. Graffeo had been assigned to Grover Cleveland High School, Ridgewood, Queens.

**Kerry Ryan** of 2 Bernadette Road, Morganville, NJ and 2248 Royce Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. Ryan pleaded guilty today to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, an "A" misdemeanor. He has paid SCI \$5,000 in restitution to the City through SCI and must resign from the DOE within 30 days. Ryan had been assigned to PS 57, Staten Island.

**John Shanley** of 57 Dogwood Road, West Islip, Long Island. Shanley pleaded guilty May 6<sup>th</sup> in Bronx Supreme Court to Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, an "A" misdemeanor. He agreed to resign from the DOE and to pay \$8,490 in restitution to the City through SCI. Shanley had been assigned to PS 147, Brooklyn.

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