

## STATE OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF THE WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD INSPECTOR GENERAL

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LETIZIA TAGLIAFIERRO INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 6, 2020

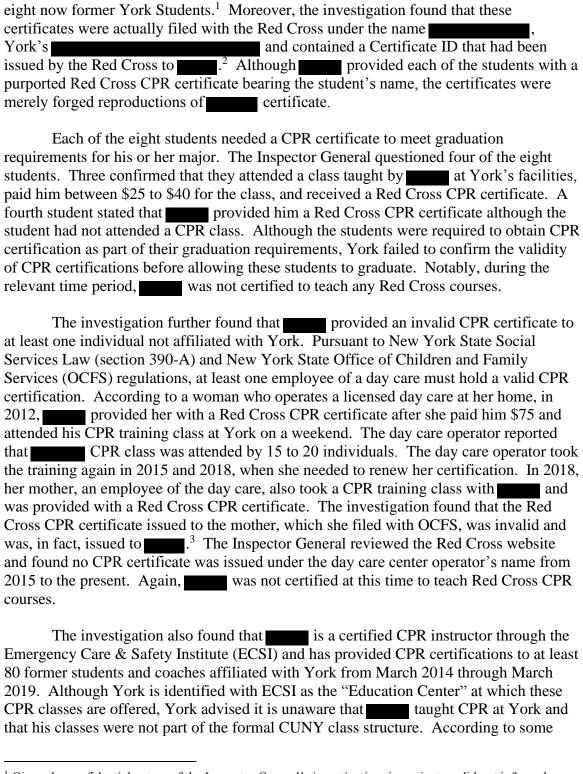
Félix V. Matos Rodríguez Chancellor The City University of New York 205 East 42nd Street New York, New York 10017

Re: NYS IG 0736-172-2019

Dear Chancellor Matos Rodríguez:

In March 2019, The City University of New York (CUNY) alleged to the Office
of the New York State Inspector General that
York College (York), issued students invalid cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
certificates and utilized an invalid CPR certificate to gain employment at York.
Specifically, CUNY alleged that on February 6, 2019, three students reported to York
that they discovered the CPR certificates provided to them by were invalid after reviewing them on the American Red Cross (Red Cross) website and finding that they were issued to another individual. Furthermore, CUNY alleged that
York CPR certificates in his name, one of which was fraudulent. The Inspector General investigated these allegations and found several instances of misconduct by

The Inspector General's investigation found that who was not an authorized Red Cross CPR trainer, provided forged Red Cross CPR certificates to at least



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Given the confidential nature of the Inspector General's investigation, investigators did not inform these former students that their certificates were invalid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The investigation did not determine if was aware his Red Cross Certificate ID was being misused by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Inspector General advised OCFS of the mother's invalid CPR certificate. Given the confidential nature of the Inspector General's investigation, investigators did not inform the mother or daughter that the mother's CPR certificate was invalid.

certificates to any individuals who had not attended CPR classes.
Additionally, although one witness advised the Inspector General of rumors that CPR training equipment owned by York was missing from the campus, the investigation did not substantiate this claim. The investigation did find that taught ECSI CPR classes to individuals not affiliated with York from at least January 2018 through May 2019, and that these classes were not held on the York campus.
The Inspector General also reviewed bank records for accounts associated with and found evidence he received money from teaching CPR classes from at least one York student and others unaffiliated with the college. Specifically, the review found seven checks deposited into bank account from April 2015 to April 2018 totaling \$410, which reference "CPR" in the memo line.
Of note, although CPR certificates are valid for two years, personnel file contained only two such CPR certificates for his almost two decade tenure at York. Additionally, according to the Red Cross website, was issued a CPR certificate in March 2016. However, the Red Cross advised this certificate did not authorize him to teach Red Cross CPR classes.
The investigation also found that under York policy, was not deemed a "policy maker" and therefore was not required to seek approval for his outside employment as a CPR instructor. However, as his classes often took place on the campus, utilized York resources, and York was the listed "Education Center," should have sought approval from York for the same.
Given the above, I recommend that York discipline as appropriate. Additionally, I recommend that York contact those former and current York students and employees who received CPR certificates from and advise those individuals to confirm the validity of their certifications. Lastly, I recommend that York review its process for confirming the validity of CPR certifications submitted as part of the graduation requirement process.
Please advise me of any action taken by your agency in response to these recommendations within 45 days of the date of this letter. If you require further information, please contact Deputy Inspector General Jessica Silver at 212.635.3150.
Sincerely,

Letizia Tagliafierro Inspector General Cc: Derek Davis, Esq.

General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs The City University of New York

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