Attack on One-to-One not substantiated yet — state AG

By JOHN E. HURLEY

Herbert Wallenstein, the assistant attorney general in charge of the state charity frauds bureau, said yesterday that the charges made to his office concerning internal affairs within the One-to-One organization "have been unspecific and have not been substantiated to our satisfaction."

Wallenstein also revealed that Geraldo Rivera, chairman of the board of One-to-One, had volunteered to make the organization's books and records available to his office shortly after the charges had been made.

"We are in the process of getting the books now," Wallenstein said.

While Wallenstein would only identify the source of the charges as a "discharged employe," it is believed that they were made by Karla Munger, the former executive director of One-to-One, who had been quoted in the Sunday Advance as alleging improprieties within the organization.

In response to the story, which had reported that the attorney general's office was investigating the One-to-One organization, Rivera and other One-to-One officials stressed that the books and records have always been open to scrutiny and that any internal problems had simply been the result of incompetence on the part of Miss Munger and her staff.

Contrary to Miss Munger's assertion that she had resigned, Rivera says that she and the other four staff members were actually fired by a vote of the board of directors.

"I deeply regret that we ever came to that impasse,"

Rivera said. "Karla had done a lot of very good things for the organization at the beginning. But she had also done some bad things."

Rivera also said that the organization has recently acquired new offices at One Lincoln Plaza, Manhattan, and that a new executive director and assistant director had recently been hired.

It is hoped that this will bring an end to what was acknowledged as a "period of transition" that followed the departure of Miss Munger and the four staff members.

In the interim, the position of executive director had been filled by Patrick Hanson, who now becomes the deputy director.

Orin McClusky, a former assistant for labor relations with the Environmental Protection Administration and former executive director of the Community Coalition, will take over the position of executive director, and Paul Dolan, who has worked with Catholic Charities, the Queens Children's Psychiatric Hospital and the HEW regional drug abuse training center, becomes assistant director for program development.

McClusky pointed out yesterday that One-to-One has an overhead rate of only about 10 per cent compared with the average 25 per cent for most charities.

In a statement on the Advance story, McClusky said "the article ignores that for a growing organization, One-to-One has had an excellent record of achievement over the past two years. Using more professional staff and better management, One-to-One will be in an even better position to help the retarded."