



OPERATION PLASTIC PIPELINE: Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown (at podium) and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly (on left) announcing that an international forged credit card and identity theft ring based in the New York-metropolitan area and with roots in Nigeria has been successfully dismantled following the indictment of forty-five individuals. The ring – which was comprised of three separate identity theft and forged credit card groups that employed multiple cells – is alleged to have been responsible for stealing the credit cards and personal credit information of thousands of American and Canadian consumers, costing these individuals, as well as financial institutions and retail businesses, more than \$12 million in losses over the past year alone. (05.14.2009)