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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2003

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FINGERPRINT TECHNICIAN ARRESTED FOR IDENTITY THEFT:
Stole Credit Card Info from New York City Department of Education

Richard J. Condon, the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (SCI) announced today the arrest of Malik Crichlow, a former Fingerprint Technician for the NYC Department of Education (DOE). Crichlow has been charged with Attempted Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Attempted Petit Larceny and Official Misconduct. Conviction on the top charge carries a maximum sentence of 1 year in jail.

Crichlow, 24, of Brooklyn, NY, is accused of stealing credit card and other personal information from DOE applicants. During October 2002, while performing his fingerprinting duties, Crichlow stole personal information off DOE application forms and gave it to an unidentified individual who attempted to wire funds from the applicants' credit cards. School officials alerted SCI's investigators after a DOE applicant reported that someone had used his credit card to try to send money to a Western Union account. SCI investigators traced the theft of the credit card information back to Crichlow.

Crichlow had been a Department of Education employee for 5 years. During SCI's investigation, Crichlow was terminated from his position and has been barred from any future employment with the Department of Education.

"Fortunately, our investigators were able to stop Crichlow before the victims' identities were compromised," said Special Commissioner Condon.

Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes said, "The defendant was in a position with tremendous responsibility because he had access to all of this personal data. We must prosecute these individuals who take advantage of innocent victims."

The Special Commissioner thanks Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and his office for their cooperation. Assistant District Attorney Patrick F. Cappock will be handling the prosecution.

The Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District is a part of the New York City's Department of Investigation.