

After scandal, Bx. cops hittin' brakes on tix

EXCLUSIVE

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DOZENS OF BRONX cops have launched an unauthorized slowdown of sorts — dramatically cutting the number of tickets they issue for moving violations, sources said.

It's been going on for about a month and is tied to the ongoing ticket-fixing scandal, the sources said. Even NYPD data show the number of summonses issued dropped 23.5% in the most recent 28-day period ending July 3. Cops in the Bronx wrote 7,615 tickets for moving violations during that period, down from 9,951 over the same span last year.

The moving violations include speeding, failure to use seatbelts and talking on cell phones while driving.

Fed up cops, according to the sources, are reacting to the Internal Affairs Bureau disciplining officers for failing to properly record summonses in their memo books. Some cops say they've been penalized for making the smallest errors on the tickets.

"If a cop fails to write details of a traffic stop or forgot something from the stop, IAB will check the memo book and automatically dish out a 10-day rip (loss of vacation pay)," one of the sources said. "The cop and his commanding officer has no say in the matter."

The surgical scrutiny of summonses is a direct result of the ongoing ticket-fixing scandal in the Bronx. It's not only paperwork. Cops from the NYPD Criminal Justice Bureau were reassigned to IAB to monitor cops at traffic hearings.

"The cops are fed up," one of the police sources said. "They're fed up with this ticket-fixing thing. They're fed up with these ticket rips and 'productivity goals.' They're just plain fed up."

The NYPD didn't respond to requests for comment.

Cops whose summons books are suddenly gathering dust are still covering

BY THE NUMBERS:			
■ Moving summonses issued from June 6 to July 3:			
	2011	2010	% change
Bronx	7,615	9,951	-23.5
Citywide	60,376	73,692	-18.1
■ Moving summonses issued from June 27 to July 3:			
	2011	2010	% change
Bronx	1,544	2,661	-42.0
Citywide	13,826	17,800	-22.3

themselves legally with the slowdown, the sources said.

"Motorists are being given the one thing a cop can lawfully do at a car stop — warn and admonish," one of the sources said.

The real danger to the public, the sources warned, is that summonses have a stronger impact on driver behavior than warnings.

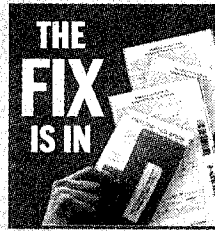
While the number of summonses were down in the Bronx during the last month or so, records show the lack of police activity was even more glaring during the week ending July 3. The number of tickets issued during that week in the borough dropped a whopping 42% — from 2,661 issued last year to 1,544 this year.

In Mott Haven's 40th Precinct, moving summonses were down 77.6% that week and down 24.2% for the month. The 47th Precinct in the northeast Bronx saw a 92.5% drop that week, and a 44.5% decrease for the month.

Citywide, moving summons were down 18.1% for the 28-day period, the largest decrease in 10 years. They fell 22.3% for the week.

A grand jury is expected to decide — as early as this month — whether to indict up to 40 cops for fixing tickets or taking bribes, sources said. At least 100 other officers, including highway cops, are expected to face departmental trials, the sources said.

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