

**Cab Gab**  
**by Abe Mittleman**

**Ever wonder why the Police sometimes appear to be picking on you? Well you're not the only one they pick on. They pick on anyone who comes into their sight for the smallest appearance of any violation. From civilian motorists, to taxi drivers, to passengers on subway trains, even pedestrians on the street, if you are not obeying the laws, rules and regulations to the letter, you are liable to be written up for anything from a traffic violation to a misdemeanor or even arrested and charged with a felony.**

**The public at large has always suspected that the police are under pressure to fill quotas. The police have always denied this. But now we have just a little more proof of these quotas. Channel 7 Eye Witness news did an investigation. Police Officer Adil Polanco spilled the beans. He was willing to break the "Blue Wall of Silence" and admit to these quotas that the police are ordered to fill on a daily basis. It appears that Officer**

**Polanco has a conscience. We are grateful for his candor.**

**In this report Officer Polanco admits that officers have quotas to fill each day. These quota requirements come from the higher ranks of the Police Department. Just how high up the order goes is anyone's guess. But the reason given by Officer Polanco is that the Police department wants to show by the number of summonses written and arrests made that they have control of the neighborhoods.**

**Officer Polanco goes on to say that Police Officers are pressured with threats of an even larger quota if they fail to fulfill the orders. In the report this is backed up by audio recordings. He says, it is the numbers that count, not convictions. The convictions do not count. Most of these summons and arrests are bogus and dismissed in court as they should be. But this doesn't take away from the harassment and anxiety suffered by the victims of these bogus summonses.**

**Officer Polanco , who is assigned to the 41<sup>st</sup> Pct in the**

**Bronx, says that most of those picked on to be summonsed or arrested are minorities. We all know that this could also mean those who are not only of racial minority but also ethnic and religious minority.**

**Officer Polanco said that police are ordered to write at least 20 summonses and make at least one arrest each month. As a result he even stops school students for no reason and searches them just to find reasons to make arrests. Eyewitness News asked Officer Polanco , "Are you telling us they're stopping people for no reason?" Officer Polanco replied, "We are stopping kids walking upstairs to their house, stopping kids going to the store."**

**An example was given of students that were arrested just because they were running. These young adults were interviewed in the video. They confirmed that they were stopped and arrested. They were charged with engaging in tumultuous and violent conduct that caused public alarm, given a summons for unlawful**

**assembly and locked up overnight. The next day they were released and the charges were dropped.**

**After watching and listening to this report it wasn't hard for me to make the comparison to what taxi drivers and even other motorists in The City of New York are subjected too. I don't think it would be wrong to assume that quotas are present in all precincts and divisions of the Police Department.**

**We, as taxi drivers know this all too well. I know because I have been a victim of one of these bogus summonses as many of you reading this article have been also. Just look at the situation with parking summonses. We all know how hot handed the agents are to write the moment a meter expires or they find your vehicle just a fraction over the line. Also, keep in mind that when a bill was passed recently by the City Council granting a five minute grace period before a parking ticket could be written for an expired meter, it was vetoed by Mayor Bloomberg. How many of you**

**reading this have at one time or another been pulled over and written up for alleged offenses you felt were unfair or just not the case?**

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**Not only do the police act improperly by improper issuance of tickets, but their attitude is also demonstrated in other ways. For example, you may remember that as recently as November of last year, a very well known and respected federal judge in Brooklyn decided a case in which he held that courts hereafter must take notice that NYC police testimony in court is frequently false or perjury. Of course, that case involved police testimony in a drug case. But, it is not unfair to broaden it to include testimony in any case, certainly in traffic court.**

**I want to know: When is our City going to stop this inhumane way of running things? When will people wise up and elect leaders who will stop it?**

**The Eyewitness news report can be read and viewed at this internet location:  
<http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/s>**