



Arrested for Driving While Black in New York City

Richard King, a black man, was arrested by Bronx police for driving while black. The Bronx ADA continues to pursue charges despite arraignment judge's ruling that complaint was flawed.

([PRWEB](#)) April 17, 2004 --Even former NYPD employees get treated differently when they are "driving while black."

Richard King, a black man, was arrested for displaying his NYPD Traffic Director identification card. A white person would never have been ticketed, let alone arrested, taken into custody, held for twenty-four hours, and dragged before an arraignment Judge. Despite the fact that white officers, their families, and even their friends regularly display "membership" cards to avoid tickets, the Bronx District Attorney's Office has refused to recognize its disparate treatment of Mr. King, and continues to prosecute a black former NYPD traffic officer because he informed the police he used to be "on the job" when he was pulled over for a minor traffic violation.

Richard King served ten years as a NYPD traffic officer until an on-the-job injury forced him to stop working. Mr. King was pulled over by a white officer in the Bronx. He had never been arrested and had no prior criminal record. While presenting his driver's license to the officer, Mr. King did what most NYPD employees do--he let the officer know he had been employed by the NYPD. Instead of allowing Mr. King the courtesies police generally grant each other, Mr. King was arrested on the spot and taken into custody.

Handcuffed and hustled into the back of a patrol car, a stunned Mr. King was taken to the police station where he was booked for a felony charge--impersonating an officer. With no prior criminal record, Mr. King was shocked to discover that the police intended to press charges against him merely for stating he had formerly been a traffic officer.

Without approaching the grand jury with the ludicrous charges, the Bronx District Attorneys' Office continues to press criminal charges against Mr. King. When the arraignment Judge pointed out that the arresting officer failed to state a crime on the complaint and the complaint never should have been approved, the District Attorney's Office dropped the felony charge to a misdemeanor but continues to pursue the baseless charge. During the past week, an offer was made by Amin "Sam" Tocey, the Bronx ADA handling the case--they'll drop the charge to a disorderly conduct offense with a \$250 fine. Mr. King declined this offer. The ADA then offered an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal (ACD) that would dismiss the charges pending provided Mr. King was not arrested for any other offense during the next six months. Mr. King again declined as he committed no crime. Mr. King's attorney, Cory J. Rosenbaum of Manhattan, continues to encourage the Bronx DA's office to drop the charges, but, so far, the DA's office has been uncooperative.

Since there is no legitimate criminal charge for "driving while black", the white officer, supported by the Bronx District Attorney's Office, continues to persecute Mr. King under the baseless impersonating an officer charge to ensure that this black man never refers to himself as a former officer again--at least, not in New York



City.

CASE INFORMATION: The People of the State of New York v. Richard King, Criminal Court of the City of New York, Bronx County, 2004BX008570.

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