

NYPD CHALLENGE COINS MEMBERS ONLY



There are many stories about the origin of challenge coins, all probably apocryphal. What is certain, though, is their roots in American military culture, their rise in popularity after World War II, and their eventual adoption by law enforcement over the proceeding decades. When fellow service members or officers meet for the first time, they might "challenge" each other to show their unit's or division's coin as a way to verify that the other is not, in colloquial terms, a poser. Some coins commemorate historical events or "battles," while others are merely inside jokes shared among friends and coded in obscure cop lingo and arcane insignia. Challenge coins are generally viewed by leadership as important morale boosters and a positive way to strengthen bonds among service members.

All challenge coins are by nature limited edition. They are traded or sold for nominal fees in precinct locker rooms, through private Facebook groups, or at members-only coin shows where attendees must prove that they are current or retired members of law enforcement before being allowed entry.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of different NYPD challenge coins in informal circulation.





The 6th Precinct covers Greenwich Village and the West Village, including the Stone-wall Inn, where an early morning NYPD raid in June 1969 triggered days of violent anti-police rioting in the area. The first gay pride parades took place in June 1970 to mark the anniversary of the riots. Thus the "heritage" this NYPD coin commemorates is rooted in violent anti-NYPD sentiment.



NYPD's anti-crime units are the aggressive plainclothes teams responsible for most of the police killings in the city, including the murder of Eric Garner in 2014. Cabaret units handle minor crimes and violations in busy "nightlife" areas. Conditions units and Street Narcotics Enforcement Units, or SNEUs, were disbanded as part of a community policing rebranding in 2015.

Conditions units dealt with "neighborhood conditions," mainly writing civil summonses for minor quality-of-life violations. Plainclothes SNEUs targeted street-corner drug deals. A Bronx SNEU team chased down and killed Ramarley Graham in 2012. The taxi with dashboard siren depicts the undercover taxis used by each of these units.



The 7th Precinct covers the Lower East side. The garbage truck is stopped at the corner of Pitt St and Broome, the location of the station house, which officers refer to as Fort Pitt. The driver is wearing the black clothes and wide-brimmed hat common to Hasidic Jews, a group that has a long history in the Lower East Side and that has extraordinarily close relations with the

NYPD, often working directly with the volunteer Shomrim auxiliary police force to make arrests. A mohawked punk sitting against a lamppost looks on impassively.



The 23rd Precinct covers the southern section of East Harlem. Basketball plays a large role in NYPD's community policing propaganda efforts. The precinct holds regular "cops versus kids" basketball games at the local Boy's Club, while "neighborhood policing" officers often loiter around the courts at local Cherry Tree Park.



The 25th Precinct covers the northern part of East Harlem. The area is home to multiple drug treatment clinics, whose clientele often hang out near the intersection of East 125th St and Lexington Ave. Officers informally refer to methadone users as "zombies." Cops here have described themselves as a "zombie response team," using such "headshot" imagery in the past.



The "hole in the donut" refers to the area in Morningside Heights containing Columbia University, Barnard College, and associated student housing: an affluent enclave protected by the police from the poverty of the surrounding neighborhoods.



Officers informally rank precinct houses based on the amount of "action" they get: an A House is a dangerous, high-crime precinct; a C House is a safer precinct with a slower pace; a B House is somewhere in between. The 26th Precinct can quickly switch between an A and a C House owing to the presumably crime-free "hole in the donut" of Columbia and Barnard.



The 34th Precinct covers Washington Heights and Inwood. The Organized Crime Control Bureau, or OCCB, used to handle mafia investigations, which included some SWAT-style door-busting operations. OCCB was disbanded in 2016 after bureaucratic restructuring to make the department appear more community-friendly. Narcotics was a specialized division of OCCB.



The 41st Precinct covers Hunts Point and Longwood in the South Bronx. While celebrating the racist old "Fort Apache" nickname, which meant treating neighborhood residents as savages, cops and the media still fawn over "supercop" Ralph Friedman, famed for killing four people (three of whom he actually did shoot in the head) and participating in 15 shootings over the

course of his career. He was awarded a Combat Cross for his exploits, the NYPD's second highest honor. The two revolvers depict the two guns he carried, one a .38 special in an ankle holster. One of the skulls represents Charles Williams, a burglary victim who had called the police for help during a break-in attempt at his home in 1972.



The 42nd Precinct covers Claremont, Crotona Park East, and Crotona Park. In 2015 the city paid out \$285,000 to settle a lawsuit brought by an officer over illegal police quotas at the precinct. The officer (who, incidentally, shot and killed an armed man in 2012 while also wounding nine bystanders with stray bullets in the process) was punished by his supervisors for years after

exposing the precinct's "highly developed quota system" that demanded minimum arrest numbers from each officer. Meanwhile, his colleagues at the precinct prefer to project an image of themselves as musclebound Nordic viking "warrior" cops beating neighborhood wasteland criminals with spiked bats.



The 48th Precinct covers Belmont, East Tremont, and other areas north of the Cross Bronx Expressway. The 48th was notorious in the 1990s for being the most corrupt precinct in the city, with dozens of arrests and indictments of officers and sergeants after a series of long-term sting operations by the Internal Affairs Bureau. "N.D." stands for Narcotics Division.





The 63rd Precinct covers Marine Park, Mill Basin, Flatlands, and other areas of southeastern Brooklyn. Dollar vans are unmarked vans that operate illegally as for-hire vehicles, usually following established MTA bus routes. One can find them driving up and down major roadways like Flatbush Ave, picking up passengers along the way, especially during rush hours when buses are packed and running behind schedule. Dollar vans have been an informal part of New York's transit system for decades; only recently has the NYPD initiated a "crackdown" on them, issuing drivers tickets and seizing their vans, their livelihoods.



The 66th Precinct covers the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, including Midwood and Kensington. The precinct acquired the "Fort Surrender" nickname in 1978 after hundreds of Hasidic Jews protesting the stabbing death of a Hasid (and also, in turn, anti-Semitism within the NYPD) stormed the station house, smashing windows, destroying station equipment,

throwing thousands of files onto the floor, and injuring 62 cops. It was reportedly the first time since the Civil War that a civilian crowd had taken over a police station in New York City.



The 70th Precinct covers Ditmas Park, Midwood, Prospect Park South, and parts of Flatbush. Cops here have long collectively referred to themselves as "The Laws of Flatbush," spending the past few decades racking up civilian complaints and targeting the area's Carribean residents in particular. In 1997, Haitian immigrant Abner Louima was beaten and brutally

sodomized by cops in a 70th Precinct station house bathroom who were initially reported as having said, "it's Giuliani time," during the attack. Officers on the coin are depicted as being protected "in battle" by Saint Michael, the patron saint of police officers, seen here neutralizing a community demon on the steps of their station house using a large, NYPD-issued service sword.



The 75th Precinct covers East New York and Cypress Hills. 1000 Sutter Avenue is the station's address. The precinct has long been considered the most violent in the city. The precinct's motto paraphrases 1010 WINS news radio's slogan, "Give us 22 minutes, we'll give you the world."



The 79th Precinct covers portions of Bedford-Stuyvesant. Marcy Houses is a sprawling public housing complex that was formerly home to Jay-Z but which is now currently being gentrified into market rate apartments as the city waits for its older tenants to die out. "Flirting with Disaster" is the precinct's unofficial motto.





The 81st Precinct covers Bedford-Stuyvesant and Stuyvesant Heights. The NYPD Tapes were secret recordings made by whistleblower officer Adrian Schoolcraft in 2008-2009 proving widespread corruption and abuse in the precinct. After voicing his complaints internally, he faced harrassment by fellow officers. Highranking NYPD officials eventually ordered an illegal SWAT raid on his apartment, physically abducting him and involuntarily committing him to a psychiatric facility for six days. The license plate "54-EDP" references a "10-54 EDP" call, in which a so-called "emotionally disturbed person" is taken to a hospital via ambulance. The quote is the Deputy Chief's recorded order to remove "rat" Schoolcraft to the hospital.



The 111th Precinct covers a nearly all-white section of northeastern Queens that includes Bayside, Little Neck, and Fresh Meadows. The fearful Terminator imagery is unusual given that the area has one of the lowest crime rates in the city and is considered a plum assignment, especially for the many officers who live in Long Island and want to work near home.



The 112th Precinct, covering Forest Hills and Rego Park in Queens, was also the birthplace of the Ramones.



Public Service Area 3 covers housing projects in north Brooklyn. "Par Avion," or airmail, is part of the old New York City tradition of throwing debris out one's window onto cops' heads.



Public Service Area 7 covers housing projects in the South Bronx. Housing police are notoriously lazy and are known to reply to dispatcher calls by radioing back, "Housing Not Available," which forces the local precinct to handle the call. Officers will show up and find the PSA cops watching TV in a recreation room or just sitting on the roof doing nothing, waiting out their tour.





During its "golden era," the Transit Bureau's Homeless Outreach Unit's duties consisted of walking through train cars at night and harassing people who were illegally reclining across multiple seats and busting people for open containers and other quality-of-life violations. Their "outreach" also involved checking tunnels for homeless encampments (to be cleared

out) and searching for tunnel dwellers (to be arrested for trespassing). In 2003, the city settled a lawsuit accusing NYPD officials of ordering the unit to stop assisting homeless people and offering them social services and to instead arrest them. Officers had also been instructed to not enforce the laws as strictly against people who weren't homeless.



The Transit Bureau's MetroCard Fraud Task Force used to be in charge of catching people ripping off card vending machines. Thieves used to jam toothpicks into money return or card dispensing slots and wait for someone to try to buy a card. Cash or credit cards went in, but MetroCards or change didn't come out. After the customer left in frustration, the

thief returned, unjammed the slots, and took the card or cash. Machines have long been updated against the scam; it's the reason change comes back in dollar coins instead of bills. The DVD-R refers to the task force's work, which involved setting up surveillance cameras, recording the crimes, and distributing images to transit cops who would track down the suspects.



NYPD officers' memo books used to come with an insert of "Useful Spanish Phrases" in pidgin English, including "drop the gun" (sooEHL-teh EH-seh reh-VOHL-vehr) and "do you want a priest?" (deh-SEH-ah oon sah-sehr-DOH-teh). "C D Express" refers to a Command Discipline, a disciplinary action imposed by one's commanding officer for breaking department rules.



The New York City Transit Police Department was its own separate police force until 1995, when it was integrated into the NYPD and became the Transit Bureau. "One Under" is transit jargon for when someone is run over by a train.



Commemorating the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations of 2011-2012. A nightstick lies across the face of an Anonymous figure with the "Get Back!" refrain familiar to anyone who's ever been to a protest in New York City. NYPD relies heavily on steel bike rack barricades as a crowd control tool. They eventually had the occupied park surrounded by them 24 hours a day.



The Disorder Control Unit was created in 1992 (not 1993, as the coin states) following the Crown Heights riots the previous year. The unit identifies potential hotspots within precincts where civil disorder may occur and helps develop localized crowd control response plans with the precinct. In the 17th century, local watchmen carried sticks over their shoulders with green

lanterns hanging from them as a means of identification. After they were done with their patrol, they would hang the lantern on a hook outside the watch house to indicate that there was someone on duty inside. The tradition lives on in the lantern-like greentinted lights that are permanently installed outside the entrances of every precinct house in the city.



The Tactical Patrol Force was the name of NYPD's nighttime riot control squad armed with blackjacks and, eventually, nightsticks. Formed in 1959, TPF's job was to violently suppress civil unrest, from riots in Harlem to student demonstrations at Columbia to the uprising at Stonewall. Its members had to be over six feet tall, under thirty years old, and fit a certain physical

profile. It ended up being comprised mainly of former marines, along with other large, burly types recruited directly out of the academy. TPF was disbanded in 1984, reportedly due to the high number of excessive force complaints, but in reality it was just a way to make NYPD's riot squad more efficient, breaking them up by borough instead of one single citywide force.



The Tactical Patrol Force was broken up in 1984 and replaced with smaller Task Force units located in each of the NYPD's patrol boroughs (MNTF/Manhattan North, QSTF/Queens South, etc.). In 2015, Task Forces were phased out and brought under a single unified command called the Strategic Response Group. "Hats and Bats" refers to riot helmets and nightsticks.





Brooklyn North Narcotics Division was a brutal plainclothes squad that was known as the "Body Snatchers." BNND cops amassed 60 lawsuits in just 5 years before it was later disbanded in 2015. The lawsuits, which cost the city millions of dollars to settle, revealed a pattern of illegal searches, excessive force, racial profiling, and racist slurs and intimidation. BNND's boundaries

encompass the precinct numbers listed on the coin.



A typical lawsuit against Brooklyn North Narcotics cops from 2010 describes a 56-year-old man being jumped by five plainclothes officers who took him back to his apartment and, even though he had his keys, smashed his door down with a battering ram. They ransacked the place without a warrant, stole a jacket, and jailed the man overnight before releasing him without

charges. "R.I.P. The Sarge" refers to Daniel Sbarra, a BNND sergeant who racked up 30 civilian complaints and who was the subject of 10 Internal Affairs investigations, all of which resulted in no discipline other than a few docked vacation days. The media placed him under the spotlight, but the NYPD ultimately rewarded his behavior by promoting him to lieutenant.



The Street Crime Unit was the NYPD's roving citywide plainclothes squad that was responsible for countless deaths throughout the 1990s. Following the killing of Amadou Diallo in 1999, SCU was broken up into smaller, boroughwide Anti-Crime Units, where they continue their work today.



All NYPD plainclothes officers carry colored wristbands, armbands, or lanyards that they don before making arrests. This allows other cops to distinguish them from a normal everyday band of marauding civilians grabbing people on the street for no discernable reason, putting them in chokeholds and slamming them to the

ground. The color changes daily and is known as the "color of the day."





A tribute to the 35-pound, all-steel "Stinger" battering ram employed by the since-disbanded Organized Crime Control Bureau as well as other squads and agencies including the FBI. In 2003, the NYPD used a Stinger battering ram while executing a no-knock search warrant while entering 57-year-old Alberta Spruill's Harlem apartment based on a false tip

from a confidential informant. Spruill, by all accounts a quiet, devout woman who worked for the city for 29 years, was dressed for work when police broke down her door, tossed a concussion grenade into her home, and rushed in with machine guns drawn, quickly taking her down and handcuffing her. She died soon after of cardiac arrest on her way to the hospital.



The OCCB Investigations Unit was responsible for investigating administrative violations and minor misconduct in other OCCB units. In 2005, 11 out of 12 members of the unit were themselves disciplined for administrative violations including falsifying overtime claims. "It's not personal, it's strictly business" is a quote from a scene in *The Godfather* in which

gangsters are debating whether or not they should kill a cop. The Kool-Aid Man, always vigilant, is green, the traditional color of the NYPD.



The now-disbanded plainclothes Street Narcotics Enforcement Unit, catching perps like Pokémon.





The New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force is made up of members from a variety of agencies including the NYPD, which has 20 detectives assigned to it. The Task Force assists law enforcement agencies, including ICE, in tracking down fugitives. In 2014, U.S. Marshals and NYPD detectives serving a warrant engaged in a high-profile shootout

in Greenwich Village that left the fugitive dead and two marshals and an NYPD detective seriously wounded.



The Criminal Justice Bureau is responsible for processing arrests citywide. Central Booking is the courthouse jail in each borough where arrestees are held while awaiting arraignment before a judge. Wait times sometimes reach over 24 hours depending on arbitrary factors like the time of day one is processed or the mood of the officers doing the processing. Cells are small

and packed. The spotlight meal offered to detainees is an American cheese sandwich on wheat bread. CJB's job includes identifying immigrants on federal detainer lists so that they can be transferred to the custody of federal immigration authorities. CJB is considered one of the worst assignments in the NYPD; officers are sometimes transferred there as a punishment.





The Asset Forfeiture Unit is a specialized team made up of detectives who have advanced training in business and accounting. Their job is to develop cases in which targeted individuals are caught using valuable seizable assets as instruments in crime. Slightly different from the NYPD's everyday civil forfeiture practices, which rob innocent New Yorkers of millions of dollars a year. The unit currently operates as part of the Criminal Enterprise Division and works closely with federal agencies like the Department of Homeland Security and the IRS to steal people's property.



The Juvenile Justice Division's sole task is to monitor social media to find kids bragging about crimes they committed or threaten to commit, as well as kids posting about illegal activity in general. This includes noting locations of "troublesome house parties" and other unpermitted social gatherings. Created in 2011, the idea behind the unit seems to be to scrutinize

teenagers' social lives, identify them as possible gang members or criminals, and give police even more opportunities to harrass and arrest young people.



The Intelligence Division, now called the Intelligence Bureau, focuses on counterterrorism. While there are records of Bureau requests to conduct surveillance on the hacker collective Anonymous, the actual existence of a CIA-style "Special Activities Unit" whose operations include active cyberwarfare and propaganda activities is doubtful.



The NYPD's Intelligence Bureau is filled with high-level ex-CIA hires, so the Pentagon likeness isn't merely aspirational. A high-ranking CIA official was embedded in the Intelligence Bureau following 9/11; an NYPD official was later revealed to be on the CIA's payroll. CIA officials played a large role in shaping the NYPD's intelligence operations.



The Special Services Unit is the Intelligence Bureau's deep undercover unit that conducts intelligence gathering operations in areas outside New York City, where the NYPD technically has no jurisdiction. In the military, "Secret Squirrel" is a nickname for someone working on a classified operation. The term comes from an old Hanna Barbera cartoon about a squirrel spy. Cops

later adopted the term to refer to anyone in a covert investigation unit, especially in narcotics. "Exitus Acta Probat" is Latin for "The End Justifies the Means."



Better for a cop to treat every interaction as a potentional life-or-death situation and use preemptive violence and be judged by 12 jurors who will almost certainly find them innocent than face the extreme possibility of being killed and carried in a coffin by 6 other cops. This logic of "I feared for my life, so I had to shoot" is why cops seem to be scared of everything and everyone, why

any movement is "suspicious," and why every object in hand looks like a weapon.



In a cop's mind, the police are constantly under attack. They are a "public enemy" hated by everyone, persecuted and crucified on a cross for their "color." They walk around targeted for assassination, even though their job is not even close to ranking among the most dangerous jobs in the nation. The mentality is "us against them" or, if you've got the look, "us against you."





The Planeteers, representing other area police agencies, combine their forces to summon the all-powerful NYPD to fight the social pollution of urban crime.



Raptors were, of course, the villains of Jurassic Park. The image of a violent raptor pack roaming around in ballistic vests against the backdrop of a public housing complex might be relatively accurate, though.





Commemorating 9/11 with the Ringling Brothers Circus tagline "The Greatest Show on Earth" is an unusual decision. The police motto on the flipside goes back decades. The stars on the official NYPD police flag represent each of the towns and villages that were consolidated into New York City in 1898, most with their own police departments.



Some of the cases under the purview of the Detective Bureau include homicides, larger narcotics cases, vice enforcement, gang activity, asset forfeiture, computer crimes, and all hate crimes. The Real Time Crime Center, the citywide surveillance operation that includes facial recognition and monitoring of protests, is part of the Detective Bureau.



The Fraternal Order of Police, a union representing 330,000 officers, endorsed Donald Trump for president. Trump has proposed a nationwide stop-and-frisk policy specifically targeting black communities. In 1989 he publicly campaigned for the execution of the Central Park Five with a plea to "bring back our police." Despite their exoneration, Trump continues to in-

sist upon their guilt, saying in 2016 that he still fully trusts the NYPD detectives who handled the case. As one news outlet noted before the election: "Reporters have busied themselves running around Manhattan complaining that they cannot find any New York Donald Trump supporters to interview. They're actually pretty easy to spot: they're the ones in blue uniforms."



Critical Response Command, or CRC, is the NYPD's "elite" counterterrorism squad whose officers can be seen around Manhattan holding machine guns and standing still or posing for photos with tourists in Times Square. "Protecting the Tower" refers to Trump Tower. Stryker Force is an informal term for a six-person CRC team.



The Paid Detail Unit oversees the program that allows cops to moonlight as security for private businesses including banks, retail stores, and office buildings. Wealthy New Yorkers hire armed and uniformed cops to guard parties at their multimillion dollar townhouses. Officers and detectives are paid \$41 an hour in addition to an extra 10% administrative fee paid directly to the

city. The rate for sergeants is \$51 an hour and for lieutenants, \$57 an hour. Half of all NYPD officers are registered with the unit and hundreds are performing "secondary policing" on any given day. A payment slip comes from the business after the work is done and is processed before the officer receives their check.



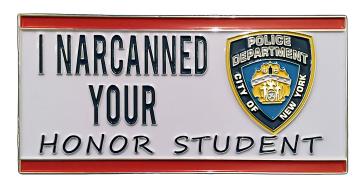
In New York City, "unauthorized use of a milk crate" is against the law. During the Bloomberg-era quality-of-life campaign Operation Impact, officers pressured to reach daily quotas began actually enforcing it, writing tickets to people engaging in the old city tradition of sitting on milk crates on the sidewalk, hanging out and socializing. Additionally, since the people sitting

on them weren't the milk crates' registered owners, they were technically stolen property. The officers knew the tickets were bogus. They would assure people that the judge would throw it out, so they had nothing to worry about. Mayor Bloomberg came out in support of the milk crate crackdown, even advising citizens to call 311 to report any milk crate violation.



"Excited delirium syndrome" is a fake medical condition invented by police to justify in-custody deaths and brutality against arrestees. The term spread through departments around the nation during the Reagan drug war years of the 1980s. It is now widely taught to cadets as legitimate science, even though the American Medical Association does not recognize it as a

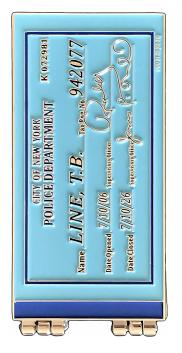
distinct medical condition and it is absent from the DSM. People under the influence are described as possessing "superhuman strength" and that they feel no pain. "Excited delirium" is now an official cause of death, not injuries incurred from the police violence that almost always precede these deaths. Louis Rotkowitz is an "honorary police surgeon," a title granted to cronies.





Narcan is the brandname for Naloxone, an emergency nasal spray used for the treatment of opioid overdose carried by all patrol officers. The device is depicted on the coin. While the NYPD press office churns out near-daily reports officers saving yet another life with Narcan, EMS workers privately complain about how cops jam it in anyone that shows any

minor symptom at all that could possibly be interpreted as a sign of drug overdose. When the person "survives," the cops get plaudits while EMTs come and clean up the mess, dealing with all the cardiovascular and gastrointestinal side effects that come with the drug.





A memo book containing the obligatory page of Miranda warnings to be read to suspects after their arrest. "Line, T.B." stands for Thin Blue Line, or the line between order and chaos. The time period is exactly twenty years, the minimum required to retire.





A typical day in the life of a cop in the age of "neighborhood policing." The numbers preceding the notes are radio codes denoting the type of call. "Sector integrity" is jargon for having two-officer teams patrol the same area day after day to "foster a sense of ownership" among officers for the people and problems of their assigned sectors. A 10-63 is a meal

break. EOT stands for End of Tour. The rooster references the traditional NYPD prank of stuffing a chicken or rooster in a colleague's locker and keeping them locked in for hours. The officer would return from tour and find their clothes and belongings ruined and covered in excrement.

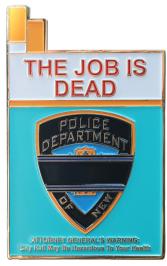




A UF-250 is a stop-and-frisk report form. The form depicted was phased out in 2016 after constitutional challenges. It was replaced with a new one in which officers had to describe the circumstances of a stop rather than just checking off a few boxes (a sure way to agitate cops is to increase their paperwork). The coin mocks the notion that there was anything wrong with the old

way of doing things, where 700,000 people a year were being profiled, stopped, and frisked without any justification.



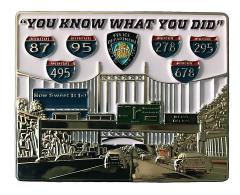


Mayor Bill de Blasio is the cop-hating scumbag, Brooklyn Borough President and former NYPD cop Eric Adams is probably the Black Lies Matter advocate, Police Commissioner and community policing advocate William Bratton is the political sellout, and City Council president Melissa Mark-Viverito turned NYC into a toilet.



Getting "jammed up" is police jargon for being under investigation by a department's Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB). The first real iteration of New York City's Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) was formed following the 1964 Harlem niots, ostensibly giving civilians oversight to reign in excessive force and abuses of authority. The actual civilian component was quickly

removed and the board became entirely members of the police. In 1993, CCRB was returned to civilian control. Its authority remains limited to recommending discipline for guilty officers. IAB ultimately determines guilt and punishment, if any. CCRB and NYPD signed a formal Memorum of Understanding (MOU) in 1997, to which the "20 Years" detail likely refers.





"Highway therapy" is what happens when superiors want to discipline a subordinate for perceived misdeeds or for not going along with the company line, or simply because they don't like them. The troublesome cops are transferred to a precinct far away from where they live, turning a ten-minute commute into an hour-long slog through toll highways and bridges

and incurring \$35 or more in E-ZPass fees everyday. The extended commute also gives officers more time to reflect on what they did to deserve the punishment. 1-888-267-7267, or 1-888-COPS-COP, is the NYPD officers union's mental health crisis line.

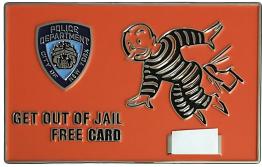




Police regularly abuse their authority with city-issued "restricted parking plate" placards that they laminate and place on their dashboards when parked illegally, both in their personal cars and their unmarked NYPD vehicles (which are still subject to city parking rules). Mayor de Blasio has threatened a crackdown, while the head of the officers' union ironically accused

parking enforcement officials of setting ticketing quotas.





The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association is the NYPD rank-and-file officers union. Representing 24,000 officers, the PBA is the largest and most powerful municipal police union in the country. All members receive a customary annual supply of 30 plastic laminated "get out of jail free" courtesy cards for themselves and their friends and families, who, when stopped

for traffic infractions or other minor violations, will hand them to officers in tandem with their driver's licenses. These encounters quickly end with the officers letting cardholders go with a simple warning rather than a ticket or arrest.



"20 and out" is a slogan used by cops who are just looking to put in their minimum 20 years before they can retire with a full pension. In the meantime, they're just counting down the days when they can be done with it all. The Theodore Roosevelt quote seems out of place: "No man is worth his salt, who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his well-being, to risk his

life in a great cause." This seems at odds with all the cops who simply view their job as "doing time," unless the great cause is retirement.





In addition to their pension, police who retire after 20 years receive a \$12,000 "holiday bonus" every December from the pension fund's Variable Supplement Fund, the result of an outdated 1960s-era setup related to the fund's stock market investments. The VSF has paid out \$500 million annually to NYPD retirees in recent years. Meanwhile, taxpayers spend \$8.6

billion—over 10% of the city budget—on filling NYPD pension fund coffers..



Retiring from the force early with a disability pension is the real dream for lazy cops. Those injured on duty who become "too disabled to work" are eligible for the special pension, which pays out three-quarters of their annual salary, tax-free, forever. Officers in their thirties will cite debilitating back injuries suffered after tripping down some stairs in the station house, claiming to

be unable to tilt their body or even brush their teeth without extreme pain. The Police Pension Fund will usually sign off on it, even without any medical evidence. Occasionally, cops will be exposed after someone discovers all the Facebook photos of them on rock climbing trips or building a boat or doing other strenuous activity.



