

Enhance Protections for Police Officers

When individuals fail to heed police authority, they put police officers and bystanders in danger. There have been too many instances of police and citizens alike being injured or killed as a suspect is being pursued. The people responsible – those who refuse to obey an officer's lawful commands – need to be held accountable for their actions.

The Challenge: Police officers' ability to effectively carry out their responsibilities relies on the authority and respect commanded by the badge and uniform. Yet, individuals who willfully ignore the lawful commands of a police officer, such as commands to stop or identify themselves, are not subject to penalties.

The Solution: Make it a violation to fail to comply with a police officer's lawful commands.

The Challenge: Criminals who strike, kick, or shove police officers, but do not cause serious physical injury, are only subject to a violation.

The Solution: Create an aggravated harassment statute for unwanted physical contact to police officers. Precedent exists for creating higher penalties; aggravated harassment statutes exist for unwanted contact against corrections officers and other protected groups, such as in cases of bias.

The Challenge: There were a total of 46 fatalities in the last decade: 13 of those who died were riding in uninvolved vehicles and four were not in a vehicle, compared to 29 who died while riding in a police vehicle or a chased vehicle. Suspects who flee police officers in a vehicle create dangerous conditions. Currently, it is only a traffic infraction to ignore a police officer's order to pull over *unless* the driver is speeding in excess of 25 miles per hour and driving recklessly.

The Solution: Create a misdemeanor crime for when a driver fails to obey police orders to stop a vehicle, regardless of how fast or recklessly the offender is driving.



New York State Law Enforcement Council

NEW YORK STATE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
CITIZENS CRIME COMMISSION OF NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE
NEW YORK STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COUNSEL
Robert T. Johnson, District Attorney
Bronx County
COORDINATOR
Leroy Frazer, Jr. Office of the District
Attorney New York County