

Brooklyn's 81st Precinct probed by NYPD for fudging stats; felonies allegedly marked as misdemeanors

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DAILY NEWS POLICE BUREAU CHIEF

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Benjamin for NewsAdrian Schoolcraft, a suspended NYPD officer, and Deputy Inspector Steven Mauriello (below) of Brooklyn's 81st Precinct are on opposite sides of dispute over accuracy of crime statistics.

A [Brooklyn](#) precinct is under investigation for manipulating statistics to make its cops look like better crimefighters, the Daily News has learned.

Two probes are centered around whether [Bedford-Stuyvesant's](#) 81st Precinct recorded felonies as misdemeanors and refused to take complaints from victims - all in an effort to drive down the crime rate, sources said.

And the allegations came from one of the precinct's officers.

[Officer Adrian Schoolcraft](#) shared his suspicions with the Internal Affairs Bureau and the Quality Assurance Division, the [NYPD](#) unit responsible for maintaining the integrity of crime stats.

Schoolcraft told The News the top brass are so concerned with numbers that one precinct lieutenant is known as "The Shredder" because he's often spotted destroying documents.

NYPD Deputy [Commissioner Paul Browne](#) confirmed the Quality Assurance Division probe. Other police sources confirmed both investigations.

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"We have received these complaints, and Quality Assurance has undertaken a review. These complaints are being reviewed as to whether or not this is true and whether this was done as a matter of error or intentionally," Browne said.

Schoolcraft gave The News the names of 14 crime victims from notes he took at the precinct from late 2008 to October 2009.

In interviews with The News, five crime victims appeared to back up Schoolcraft's allegations.

Of the remaining nine, four could not be reached, three believed cops responded correctly to their crimes and two initially told The News they had problems with the precinct but could not be reached for further clarification.

Brooklyn mom Marbel Rentas said she was happy with 81st Precinct cops after her son was robbed of his Sidekick phone on a basketball court in October. "They didn't arrest no one, but the police drove him home afterward. They were nice to him," Rentas said. The case, a source said, was correctly classified as a robbery.

The five people who said their cases were mishandled included:

- A man who said he was beaten bloody and robbed - and then told by cops he was the victim of a "lost property" case because he didn't get a good look at the suspects.
- Another man who said he was berated by the precinct's commanding officer, **Deputy Inspector Steven Mauriello**, for trying to report a stolen car.
- Another stolen car victim who said it took her a month to get a complaint taken - and that happened only when a supervisor realized she was a retired traffic agent.
- An elderly man who said cops would not take a report when he was burglarized, saying there was "no evidence."

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