

Affluent White Bostonians Unfairly Targeted by Stop and Frisk Practices...Mostly While Leaving SoulCycle

NEWS IN BRIEF

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BOSTON, MA - Recently, an alarming report from the Heritage Foundation revealed that the number of stop and frisk incidents has dramatically increased in several prominent Boston neighborhoods. In fact, these stop and frisk incidents are now so numerous that they are proving detrimental to the daily lives of local citizens.

“I was stopped three different days this week leaving Soul Cycle,” said Maureen Underwood, a resident of Brookline, MA. “On Thursday I was 30 minutes late to my spa appointment. It was distressing.”

When asked if her Lululemon athleisure played a role in her stop, Ms. Underwood said, “It was clear the police officer was targeting me because of my wealth.” Her husband is currently serving two years for embezzlement of government funds.

To gain access to the records of 150,000 stop and frisk incidents that occurred from 2007-2010, the Heritage Foundation has to sue the Boston Police Department. The data clearly show that when it comes to stop and frisk incidents, the Boston Police Department disproportionately target individuals based on racial profile and neighborhood.



Just trying to live her life: Maureen Underwood of Brighton MA almost missed a spa appointment after a stop and frisk incident delayed her while leaving SoulCycle



Stop and frisk incidences are concentrated in affluent white communities.

“The Boston Police Department just doesn’t care about white people,” said supermodel and Brookline resident Gisele Bundchen, also on her way out of SoulCycle. “Last week when my husband was frisked, they even searched inside his UGGS.”

However, Boston Police Commissioner William T. Evans countered that their approach is working. “Just last week in a stop and frisk incident I found the numbers for 17 offshore accounts sewed into the lining of the perpetrator’s Brooks Brothers suit.”



Rich, famous and targeted: Supermodel Gisele Bundchen and her husband, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, both residents of Brighton, MA, have been repeatedly subjected to stop and frisk practices while leaving SoulCycle

As the map below shows, the majority of stop and frisk incidents occur in affluent, majority white neighborhoods such as the Boston neighborhoods of Brookline and Milton. In fact, 145% of people that are stopped and frisked are white.



Flying low: Preston T. Walcott III of Milton, MA, almost missed his flight to Martha’s Vineyard because of a stop and frisk incident last week.

SoulCycle is just one of the places where citizens have been subjected to stop and frisk practices--individuals have also been targeted on their way out of Whole Foods, picking up their CSA shares, heading into Pinkberry, and simply trying to live their daily lives in peace.

“I was stopped for 25 minutes on my way to work,” said Preston T. Walcott III, a financial advisor with Marsh & Cunningham. “And last week I almost missed my flight to Martha’s Vineyard. This is getting ridiculous. I’m not a criminal. And I can’t afford to be late for work.”

When asked if there was bias on their part, Boston Police Department Commissioner William T. Evans responded, “We go where the criminals are. Do you know how much these guys cost us during the financial crisis?”

Mikey Wahlberg, a resident of Dorchester agrees. “Yeah sure, a lot of them are innocent, but some of them are not,” he said with a shrug, sipping his Dunkin’s from inside his Patriot’s hoodie. “I mean, I’ve never been stopped and frisked.”



Not seeing a problem: Mikey Wahlberg of Dorchester, MA doesn’t think current stop and frisk practices in Boston need to be changed. He also enjoys Dunkin Donuts.

The Heritage Foundation is calling for the Boston Police Department to be held accountable for its “rampant and biased stop and frisk practices”.

What if this kind of racial and geographic profiling were real? Wouldn't you want people to take action?

Here are the facts:

- Black Bostonians are 2.5 more likely to be the subject of a stop and frisk event
- 42% of the stop and frisk incidents occurred in Roxbury and Dorchester, two of the poorest neighborhoods in Boston

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