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November 16, 2004

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**TOP STORY**



## Internet Company Says It Will Help You Fight Your Parking Tickets

NOVEMBER 15TH, 2004

*It's one of the hazards of owning a car - that little orange envelope that winds up on your windshield. But can you really fight a parking ticket and win? As NY1's Amanda Farinacci reports, an Internet company says yes, and the city agrees.*

You have to feel for Roger Young. Just out of the Parking Violations Bureau where he paid \$400 for parking tickets he said he didn't deserve, he found another one for parking in a no standing zone.

"Traffic agents or the traffic officer should at least warn you instead of just riding behind you and writing out tickets," says Young. "I mean, this is ridiculous."

Or take Sulejman Suca. He says his car was ticketed seven times after it was stolen. He's been able to get five tickets dismissed, and he's still waiting to hear about the other two.

It's a process that hasn't been easy.

"I have documents here. I tried to appeal two or three times, back and forth, but nobody told me you have to pay first and then appeal. Nobody knows these things. I pay \$200 in penalties. It's been six months and I can't solve this problem."

Enter [www.parkingticket.com](http://www.parkingticket.com), an online agency that says it can fight tickets for you for a fee. The company says most people don't know how parking laws work, and they pay for tickets they could easily fight.

There are plenty to fight. The city Department of Finance says nearly 10 million parking tickets are given out every year, or about \$1 billion worth. Parkinticket.com says it just isn't right.

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"The city is using parking tickets to gain revenue," says the company's Glenn Bolofsky.

8:45 p.m. and repeating Saturdays and Sundays at 11:15 a.m. and 11:15 p.m.

So is parkingticket.com, which collects 50 cents on the dollar for every ticket it gets tossed. On Monday, the president of the company was outside the PVB publicizing his service by promising "Free Help Wednesday" for the first 500 drivers who take him up on his offer.

But the Department of Finance says nobody should ever pay to fight a ticket. Said a spokesman: "This company wants New Yorkers to pay them for something they already get for free, scaring them into thinking you have to be a lawyer to beat a parking ticket. Finance's parking judges already dismiss defective tickets without a hearing and make fighting a ticket as easy as possible."

But parkingticket.com says it's more than just unfair tickets - the whole system needs an overhaul.

Organizers say New Yorkers should be given harsher penalties for safety violations like parking in a bus stop or fire hydrant, and they say drivers should get a little leniency for most others.

"Go ahead and increase the fines for true safety infractions, but stop nickel-and-diming the public all day long; it's putting a stain on the city," says Bolofsky.

But don't expect the city to take that advice any time soon. That means the best advice on fighting a ticket is not to get one in the first place.

- *Amanda Farinacci*

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