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## 'The worst it has ever been': Many drivers ticketed for not stopping for pedestrians

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The Montclair Times

Police officers working a recent detail enforcing the stop-for-pedestrians law handed out "an extremely high number of summonses," said the commander of the Montclair Police Department's Traffic Bureau.

Drivers' compliance was so poor during the operation on Tuesday, May 25, that Lt. Kenneth Miscia Jr. is seeking a way to improve pedestrian safety at the crosswalk spanning Bloomfield Avenue at Midland Avenue.

Police wrote 114 tickets for 10 different violations, including 72 issued to drivers who allegedly didn't stop for pedestrians.

Two plainclothes officers tried crossing the street between 3 and 7 p.m. Uniformed officers stationed a block away pulled over drivers who didn't stop for the "decoys" and for civilians, Miscia said.

Of the five most recent undercover operations of this kind he's been involved in, the May 25 sting resulted in the most summonses.

"This is the worst it has ever been," Miscia said. "It just seemed like if one person passed us, everyone following him just kept going."

A new law recently went into effect requiring motorists to stop and wait for pedestrians in a crosswalk, until the person on foot either reaches the sidewalk or a lane of opposing traffic. Along with the new requirement came a harsher penalty for lawbreakers: a fine of \$200 and possible sentence of 15 days' community service.

The Midland Avenue crosswalk provides glaring proof that many drivers aren't following that law. "I'm looking into maybe getting some type of enhanced signaling there," the lieutenant said, including possibly outlining the crosswalk with a series of lights embedded in the roadway that activate when a pedestrian passes a sensor.

— Dan Prochilo