

Report: Latinos in Freehold receive more tickets than others

Posted via **APP.com**:

December 9th, 2009

Latinos have received a disproportionately high number of tickets for bicycle and taxicab offenses in the borough, according to a report being released tomorrow.

The Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey, in conjunction with Casa Freehold and the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, reviewed traffic and bicycle summonses issued in the borough as far back as August 2006.

Their findings show that Latinos were ticketed a disproportionate amount for two specific categories of offenses: driving an unlicensed taxi cab and improper operation of a bicycle. Both offenses, say the report's organizers, concern survival methods employed by Latinos.

Freehold Police Chief Mitch Roth defended his department, saying they have conducted several educational forums in the Latino community on topics like bicycle safety and would "gladly" participate in any seminars developed by the Latino Leadership Alliance.

The alliance is calling on Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin to review all bicycle and traffic tickets issued by the borough in the last five years to determine whether biased policing exists, according to the report.

■ Kim Predham