

Like Follow @NYDailyNews

NEW YORK NEWS POLITICS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT OPINION LIVING AUTOS

EVENTS | NYC CRIME | BRONX | BROOKLYN | QUEENS | UPTOWN | EDUCATION | WEATHER | OBITUARIES | NEW YORK PICS | DN PHOTOGRAPHERS

# EXCLUSIVE: NYPD's most-sued cop, probed over improper raids, taken off the streets

Detective Peter Valentin of Bronx Narcotics was found to have been sued at least 28 times since 2006 and cost the city \$884,000 in legal settlements. He could face departmental charges for producing trumped up information to secure a warrant, sources told the Daily News.

BY ROCCO PARASCANDOLA / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS POLICE BUREAU CHIEF / Friday, April 11, 2014, 2:30 AM

191 34 33



RICHARD HARBUS FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

**Bronx Narcotics Detective Peter Valentin caught taking out the garbage. Valentin has been placed on modified duty during Internal Affairs probe.**

### RELATED STORIES

**EXCLUSIVE:** NYPD's most-sued cop also among top overtime earners

**EXCLUSIVE:** Detective is NYPD's most-sued cop with 28 lawsuits

Meet the NYPD's 4 most-sued officers over the past decade

could endanger several investigations and give defense attorneys grounds to appeal prior convictions, police sources said.

In February, The News revealed the city paid out at least \$884,000 to settle lawsuits in which Valentin is named.

Valentin has been accused of taking part in several dicey raids. In one case, a nursing mother spent a week on Rikers Island because Valentin ignored her claim that the powder in her home was actually crushed egg shells used in a Santeria ritual. The drug tests were negative.

A tip to Internal Affairs last summer started a probe into Valentin and his cohorts. The Narcotics Bureau was headed at the time by Assistant Chief Joseph

SHARE THIS URL

nydn.us/R7OTFp

A A A

The NYPD's most-sued cop has been yanked off the streets after an undercover police probe — and now dozens of convictions and pending investigations are in jeopardy, the Daily News has learned.

Detective Peter Valentin of Bronx Narcotics — sued at least 28 times since 2006 — was part of a team targeted by the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau last summer for taking part in raids of dubious merit, police sources told The News.

Valentin and his cohorts have been placed on modified duty and could face departmental charges accusing them of trumping up "information" from an IAB undercover to get a drug warrant, sources said.

The March 27 decision to put Valentin and three colleagues in desk jobs in different boroughs

## EDITOR'S PICKS

### 1 dead, 5 injured during fight at Bronx nightclub

One man was fatally shot and five more men were injured when a fight erupted in a Bronx nightclub early



### Fighting breast cancer in 'Making Strides' walk

The West Indian American Day Carnival Association's festive Labor Day parade has passed, but there's



### Daily News truck driver helps cops chase would-be thief

Charlene Munn, who has been driving for The News since 2009, helped the NYPD collar a wannabe car



### BK man, 52, injured after being hit by SUV, landing on hood

A 52-year-old man was hospitalized with severe head injuries Saturday when he was struck by an



### Eating Along the A Line: Utica Ave. in Bed-Stuy

It's worth a trip to the A train stop at Utica Ave. in Bed-Stuy this fall just to stroll through some of Brooklyn's



## PROMOTED STORIES

## EDITOR'S PICKS

### New Queens Museum exhibit highlights Kodak moments at the World's Fairs

Say cheese! Some Kodak moments can last forever. A new Queens Museum



### Laura Raicovich appointed new director of the Queens Museum

During her family's weekly drives from Roslyn, L.I., to her grandparents' in



### Brooklyn mom asking drivers to hold their horns

HONK off! A Ditmas Park mom on a mission to keep horn-happy motorists from beeping at school buses will hand out flyers to the inconsiderate drivers who she

Reznick, recently tapped by Police Commissioner Bill Bratton to run Internal Affairs.



SUSAN WATTS/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Joseph Reznick (right), former head of the NYPD Narcotics Bureau, was appointed by Police Commissioner Bill Bratton (left) to head the Internal Affairs Bureau.

apartment.

The informant "bought" the drugs, but the targeted cops became suspicious because they never saw anyone else enter or leave the apartment while they kept it under surveillance, sources said. When they finally executed the warrant, they discovered an empty apartment — leading them to conclude Internal Affairs was investigating them, sources said. But by then, the damage was done, sources said.

In addition to the probe linked to the undercover, sources said the officers may have discussed getting other warrants by falsely claiming the informant told them about drugs in other locations. Investigators are also looking at numerous drug cases in which other informants were used.

The NYPD placed Valentin, Detectives Alberto Pizzaro and Danixon Cabrera and their supervisor, Lt. Joseph Kourakos, on modified duty.

Sources close to the cops downplayed the alleged wrongdoing as paperwork errors. The NYPD declined comment.

rparascandola@nydailynews.com

MORE FROM NYDAILYNEWS

- [Bronx man makes lucrative career as Barack Obama impersonator](#)
- [1 dead, 5 injured during fight at Bronx nightclub](#)
- [Woman hit by car in Brooklyn while trying to rescue dog that was struck moments earlier](#)
- [NYPD gives cops specific questions to ask in domestic abuse cases to increase chance of arrest](#)

COMMENTS (33)

[ Discussion Guidelines ]

says make every morning a living hell for kids with



Ebola awareness gets kick from West Africans in the Bronx

A group of concerned West Africans will gather in the Bronx Sunday to kick up awareness about Ebola.



Mom of knife-wielding man shot by cops: He didn't need to die

"It's not a gun, it's not a big knife, why shoot him?" asked Liliya Pilipenko, 54, mother of Denis Volchkin.



Brooklyn woman hit by car while trying to rescue injured dog

Her beloved pooch was mowed down before her eyes by a heartless driver who didn't even stop.



Holy Cross puts full Nelson on St. Francis Prep

Holy Cross' Jeremiah Nelson was struggling as a linebacker earlier this season, so Knights coach



Anthony Bourdain boogies down in Bronx

Bronx appétit!



\$750M NYPD Police Academy faces another setback

A state-of-the-art polyurethane floor recently installed in the soon-to-be opened \$750 million NYPD



Engineer in Metro-North train derailment sped before investigators

An analysis of data records shows that William Rockefeller broke the limit



FREE

BEST CITY APP IN THE WORLD!