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Common Traffic Myths Exposed

Is This Illegal?

by Kirk Seaman | AOL Autos

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Blocking The Box

Myth: In Manhattan, "blocking the box" — also known as obstructing an intersection or grid-locking — carries a hefty fine, will add points to your license, and hurt your auto insurance rates.

Reality: False.

Matthew Weiss, a traffic lawyer who has practiced [traffic law](#) for almost twenty years in New York State, explains that the law was changed in 2008. "Under the old law, blocking the box carried a \$150 fine, added two points to your drivers license, and could only be awarded by a cop who witnessed the infraction. Now the same violation carries a fine of \$115, but no points or adverse insurance consequences."

That's the good news. But the bad news is that now that the offense is also considered a parking violation, there are almost 3,000 city enforcement agents who can issue such a citation. According to Weiss, more tickets are being issued and fewer drivers are fighting them since there are no longer points associated with the new charge.

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