

# Blacks and Jews Signing Up for New NYPD Multicultural Civilian Patrol



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**Crown Heights, NY — A new civilian watch group in Crown Heights is bringing together blacks and Jews in a neighborhood once synonymous with racial tension.**

**If all goes as planned, a Caribbean-American pastor could share a car with an Orthodox Jew on the NYPD Civilian Observation Patrol - or blacks might volunteer for Friday night shifts, when their Jewish neighbors can't work.**

**“It's a quantum leap beyond what it was in 1991,” Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said, referring to the riots that rocked the community nearly two decades ago.**

**About 50 residents have signed up for the police-sponsored group, completing 60 hours of training before they got black jackets, ID cards and hybrid cars with NYPD emblems.**

**“You are now officially the eyes and ears of the department,” Kelly told them in a dedication ceremony outside the 71st Precinct.**

**There already are Jewish patrols in the area, Shomrim and Shmira. In the past, there's been friction between the two - and with the black community.**

**In April, off-duty Shmira members allegedly beat a black man, the 20-year-old son of a cop - sparking a police investigation and fanning racial tensions.**

**Members of the Shomrim and Shmira groups said they welcome the NYPD-backed patrol in the neighborhood.**

**But while several Shmira volunteers have joined, Shomrim members have shunned it so far.**

**Shmira member *[and lead perpetrator in the Messira against 7 Shomrim members who are each facing a possible 5 year jail term if convicted]* Levi Huebner , 40, signed up and said the NYPD is “giving us resources and training to do the job properly.”**

**The job may be more important than ever with budget cutbacks translating into fewer police officers on the streets.**

**Richard Green, director of the Crown Heights Youth Collective and a patrol organizer, said he hopes to make it “a massive movement.”**

**Police brass hope it will be a unifying one.**

**“Ideally, we'll have one patrol that incorporates everybody,” Kelly said.**

**Crown Heights resident Alexis Kennedy, 25, a Brooklyn College student, was surprised - and slightly skeptical - to hear about the multicultural patrol.**

**“To have the two communities working together is an awesome idea,” she said. “Will it work? I don't know.”**