

The New York Times

July 2, 2010

When the Police Stop and Frisk

To the Editor:

Heather Mac Donald ("[Fighting Crime Where the Criminals Are](#)," Op-Ed, June 26) misses two key points. Critics of the New York Police Department's stop-and-frisk tactics do not accuse individual officers of racial bias, but question the practice itself because of how it focuses almost entirely on minority neighborhoods.

Also, Ms. Mac Donald writes as if stop-and-frisk methods were the only effective response to unlawful acts in high-crime areas. Other police departments in the nation, like those in San Diego and Boston, have engaged in community policing strategies that have been successful in reducing crime in designated areas.

And by contrast, those approaches have helped build positive relationships between the community and the police, rather than create the kind of antagonistic and hostile attitudes in local residents that stop-and-frisk has often fostered.

It is time to cease defending the racially biased stop-and-frisk practices of the city's Police Department and to consider other proven crime-fighting approaches.

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New York, June 28, 2010