

Stop-and-frisk going paperless at federal monitor's suggestion

BY ROCCO PARASCANDOLA | November 10, 2016



Cops will use smartphones and tablets to record stop-and-frisk incidents starting in January. (Richard Harbus/for New York Daily News)

Stop-and-frisk is going paperless.

The NYPD is planning to use an electronic form for cops to fill out on their smartphones or tablets every time they employ the tactic.

Peter Zimroth, the federal monitor for the NYPD, on Thursday recommended to a federal judge that the force use an electronic version of the UF-250, as the stop, question and frisk form is formally known.

The new electronic system, he said in a letter to Judge Analisa Torres, has more space for officers to explain why they make stops.

The NYPD reviewed and approved Zimroth's recommendation before he sent it to the judge.

Officers are not allowed to file the name, address, date of birth and phone number of a person who is stopped — unless the individual is arrested or receives a summons and is later convicted. The provision stems from a 2013 settlement the NYPD made with the New York Civil Liberties Union after the rights group sued over stop-and-frisk.

The stop-and-frisk controversy peaked in 2011, when cops subjected nearly 700,000 people to the tactic.

The NYCLU and other groups maintained that stopping hundreds of thousands of people — most of whom did not get arrested or receive summonses — enabled police to maintain a database of innocent New Yorkers.

Officers are still required to list identifying information in their memo books regardless of whether they make an arrest or issue a summons, though the potential for abuse, rights groups say, has been reduced.

The new system should be up and running in mid-January, Zimroth said.

Critics considered the paper stop-and-frisk form inadequate because it included check boxes but little room to explain what happened.

In 2013, federal Judge Shira Scheindlin ruled that the NYPD violated the constitutional rights of minorities in the way it carried out its stop, question and frisk tactics.

The practice has been greatly reduced since then, by about 98 percent.