

Nice Try, Santa

Apparently there is no clause protecting Santa Claus from being ticketed just like every other joe in the world. Back in November, 60 year-old Chip Cafiero was given a citation for being double-parked on a Brooklyn street. His horse-drawn carriage full of treats for good little boys and girls was parked near his SUV. Mr. Cafiero recently had his day in court to contest the ticket by claiming he was illegally parked to protect the children and carriage from traffic. However, the Jolly Elf paid the \$155 fine but said that the grinch would not take away his Christmas spirit.

*By Caitlin Millat
NBCNewYork.com*

The NYPD just landed on the naughty list.

Kris Kringle will have to pay a \$115 double-parking ticket he received last Christmas while handing out toys to kids in Brooklyn, the Daily News reported.

Chip Cafiero, 60, parked his horse-drawn carriage – ahem, sleigh – in Bay Ridge last year as he delivered goodies to bright-eyed area kids.

Grinchy cops promptly slapped Cafiero's carriage and the Chevy Suburban next to it with fines for occupying more than one space.

"The agent saw me handing out toys to kids and walked over and slapped me with a fine anyways," St. Nick told the Daily News. "Has this city lost its heart?"

St. Nick tried to appeal to the Department of Finance but lost his battle with the city today despite public outcry that the ticket be overturned.

"Obviously not even Santa is exempt from traffic enforcement

here in New York City," state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) said.

The Fifth Avenue Merchants Association told the Daily News it would pick up Cafiero's tab.

Cafiero said the ticket wouldn't zap him of holiday cheer.

"The city can take my money," Santa said, "but they can't take my Christmas spirit."