



Miami Vice: Cops Set Up 'Mask Traps' To Issue \$100 Fines

Miami police are citing anyone in their jurisdiction who they deem is wearing their face mask improperly. They are ticketing in public areas as well as in private businesses. Citizens should band together in a class-action lawsuit against the city and break this illegal madness once and for all. □ TN Editor

It's been less than two weeks since Miami-Dade County announced it would be fining people for not wearing masks in public. Already, Florida media outlets are filled with stories of people cited for wearing masks improperly, lowering masks to sip a drink, or removing their face coverings once outside of a store.

On Thursday, the *Miami Herald* reported that the Miami-Dade Police Department has issued 162 citations for violating the county's mandatory mask ordinance, which comes with a \$100 penalty.

One woman, Johanna Gianni, says she removed her mask in the parking lot of a Publix grocery store in North Miami Beach, when a police officer approached her and wrote her a ticket for not wearing a mask. Gianni

told the *Herald* the parking lot was nearly empty and that she felt set up by police.

She's not the only one.

The ABC affiliate Local10 reports that Dean Gonzalez was fined while leaving a North Miami Beach Publix because his mask didn't cover his nose. The encounter was captured on video; in it, an officer can be heard telling Gonzalez that improper mask usage is as bad as not wearing a mask at all. Gonzalez accused the cops of setting up a "mask trap" and said that they threatened him with arrest if he didn't sign the ticket he was issued.

The *Herald* article includes several other examples of people being fined while wearing masks, including a customer at a barber shop who lowered his mask to take a sip of water right as a police officer entered the business.

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