

NYPD FED UP Declines to back D.C. in immig bust

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Body

City cops are in a nasty fight with the **feds** over manpower and money that boiled over with the **NYPD** pulling out of a massive **federal** deportation sweep aimed at criminal immigrants yesterday.

Federal sources say the cops **backed** out late last week because of politics, but cops say Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly was infuriated by the Department of Homeland Security's our-way-or-the-highway demand that the police devote 185 cops to the operation.

Police sources said the force is just too strapped to give **up** that many officers while spending about \$200 million a year to fight terror, with 1,000 cops assigned to anti-terror duties every day - while the **federal** government foots the bill for less than half.

"Commissioner Kelly withheld the **NYPD**'s participation only after our offer to participate on a reduced scale was rebuffed," said Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne.

"We made a counterproposal that was rejected," Browne said. "They can't come in here and demand this many cops, and say it's this way or no way."

As many as 500 Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, U.S. marshals and state police launched raids in the city, Long Island and upstate yesterday targeting about 150 felons, including murderers and drug dealers, who have ignored deportation orders, **federal** sources said.

Federal sources said the **NYPD** was expected to be in on the sweep and was part of planning meetings until as recently as May 18, the day before Kelly and Mayor Bloomberg slammed Washington at the **federal** 9/11 hearings for failing to support New York.

The sources said the cops never offered even reduced help, and pulled out because City Hall is angry at the **feds** over terror funding. They also suggested the police were worried about how their participation would look to city immigrants.

"We would've taken any bodies," one immigration agent said yesterday. "We wanted to work with the **NYPD**. It's their city. We work great with them and [City Hall] pulls them out? That's bull-

---t."

The police denied City Hall had any role in the pullout, or that the **NYPD** did not want to be involved in an immigration roundup. "It was the police commissioner's decision alone, based on police resources and operational issues," Browne said.

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