



## Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership

PO BOX 142, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 1UZ

Telephone 01295 731810

Fax 01295 731811

[www.saferroads.org](http://www.saferroads.org)

**From** Dan Campsall

**Release** Immediate

**Reference** TVSRP\_clw003

**Date** Friday, 24 November 2006

### **Sentenced to 5 Years in Prison over Speeding Ticket Scam**

Nawaz Sharif, 37, of Wexham Road, Slough has been sentenced to 5 years in prison for 21 counts of perverting the course of justice and numerous other offences.

Today's result at Reading Crown Court concludes a lengthy multi-agency investigation by officers from Thames Valley Police and Slough Borough Council.

The investigation was triggered when several addresses belonging to Mr Sharif were identified from speeding tickets returned to Police. In each case Mr Sharif's own handwriting was evident, falsely nominating fictitious drivers on behalf of the registered owners.

Many of the tickets identified belonged to taxi drivers from the area, who had paid in up to £600 to Mr Sharif for each ticket they wanted to dispose of.

As part of the investigation, simultaneous raids were carried out on a number of properties on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005. At this time Home Office Immigration stamps and false passports were also retrieved. At the time of the raids in December records of other criminal activity were also collected; these are the subject of an ongoing investigation believed to be worth over £1.4m.

Judge Christopher Critchlow also ordered Mr Sharif to repay £43,825 to Slough Borough Council and £30,000 in costs.

Sharif was also told he will be subject to further court proceedings in January as work continues on the finances that are thought to have been the proceeds of crime.

#### **Further details from:**

Dan CAMPSALL, Communications Manager

Tel: 01295 731812

Mob: 07967 446506

E-mail: [prmgr@saferroads.org](mailto:prmgr@saferroads.org)

#### **Thames Valley Safety Partnership members :-**

Thames Valley Police : Oxfordshire County Council : Buckinghamshire County Council : Milton Keynes Council : Slough Borough Council : Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead : Bracknell Forest Borough Council : Wokingham District Council : Reading Borough Council : West Berkshire Council : Thames Valley Magistrates Courts Services : Crown Prosecution Service :  
The Highways Agency

Speaking after hearing the verdict, PC Pat Knight the investigating officer commented:

*"This investigation has uncovered serious criminal activity and all arising from some safety camera offences. What is of great concern here is that at the centre of this case are drivers trying to dodge prosecution when they have been caught speeding or jumping red lights."*

He added *"Many of these drivers are transporting the public in taxis and that means that the public are being placed at risk by repeat offenders committing further crimes to cover up."*

Commenting on the outcome of the case Supt. Mick Doyle, Head of Roads Policing for Thames Valley Police said: *"This case shows the close connection that exists between those committing traffic offences and other criminal activity. We will use the intelligence from safety cameras and will investigate thoroughly where serious criminal offences are being committed. Today's result is testimony to the hard work of officers and administrative staff and a close working relationship with our partners."*

He continued, *"Thames Valley Police are rigorous about enforcing the law and that includes motoring offences. We are committed to denying criminals use of the road and making the roads safer for all."*

#### **Notes to editors:**

Charges to which Nawaz Sharif pleaded guilty:

Perverting the course of justice

- 21 counts (with a further 123 counts taken into consideration)

Attempting to pervert the course of justice

- 2 counts

Possession of a replica Home Office stamp contrary to Immigration Act 1971

- 2 counts

Possession of a false passport contrary to the Forgery & Counterfeiting Act 1981

- 1 count

Possession of a false Home Office Immigration Document contrary to the Forgery & Counterfeiting Act 1981

- 1 count

He also pleaded guilty to 6 charges of false accounting and two of failure to disclose information. These charges were brought by Slough Borough Council in respect of a housing benefit fraud case.

#### **Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership**

To reduce the number of people being killed or seriously injured on our roads, Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership was formed in 2000. The partners are committed to reducing casualties by deterring drivers from speeding, and informing the public through road safety education and publicity.