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THEY CALL THEMSELVES "CRITICAL MASS" -- "CRITICAL" BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE NEW YORK CITY'S RESTRICTIONS ON BIKE RIDING, "MASS" BECAUSE THERE ARE ALOT OF THEM, AND THEY'VE BEEN CLOGGING MANHATTAN STREETS ONE NIGHT A MONTH.

LAST NIGHT THEY WERE OUT IN FORCE AGAIN -- FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PUT ITS NEW PARADE PERMIT RULES INTO EFFECT.

THOSE RULES CALL FOR A PERMIT FOR GATHERINGS OF 50 OR MORE PEOPLE... SOMETHING THE BIKE RIDERS DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEFORE -- AND APPARENTLY DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO LAST NIGHT.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ENFORCED THE NEW REGULATIONS... AND AT LEAST FIVE RIDERS WERE ARRESTED.

