



JOHN NY MILANO

BY ICE OUT ON BOND

went to the wrong address. Crough also said that the court record contained insufficient details about a 1993 guilty plea in Suffolk for driving while intoxicated. But Mulligan said he did not believe Iñiguez was a danger to the community, the legal standard for bond.

"The only scintilla of danger that I see in my file," the judge said, "is a 1993 conviction for DWI and nothing since." The circumstances of the DWI case "wouldn't have been off the charts" because that judge allowed a guilty plea and a fine of \$355, he said. Horn said Iñiguez's license was revoked for a few months and his client told him about the case only Tuesday.

In granting bond, the judge also cited "glowing letters of support" and said Iñiguez was a pivotal figure in the lives of his sons and wife.

Detained immigrants with cases before the court no longer appear in person but by video conference, as of June. Iñiguez could not ap-

pear on camera because of technical issues, and Horn waived Iñiguez's right to see his case live Wednesday.

Iñiguez, 49, was taken into custody about 100 days after Lloyd Harbor police pulled him over in May. Officers noticed a warrant stemming from a judge's 2001 order and notified ICE, said Thomas Krumpert, village police chief.

But the agency said it did not have a team to pick up Iñiguez, then directed the police to release Iñiguez, Krumpert said. Iñiguez fixed the light the same day and the ticket was rescinded, Horn said.

At the time of the traffic stop, Iñiguez had filed a petition for permanent legal residency based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen two years before, Horn said.

Iñiguez, who came to the United States illegally via Canada, has two sons on Long Island: Anthony, 22, a college student and legal resident in the process of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen, and Felipe, 17, who was born

in the United States.

The region's police forces maintain a patchwork of policies governing whether and under what circumstances the federal immigration agency is notified upon contact with a person who is in the country illegally.

In Suffolk, the county police policy is not to contact the federal agency unless a person is charged with a misdemeanor or felony — a policy identical to Nassau's. But the Lloyd Harbor police force, which patrols the village in Suffolk, has no such policy.

Anthony Iñiguez, a Suffolk County Community College student who will be in its nursing program next semester, spoke Wednesday outside the building where his father's case was heard. He said he is elated that "they took my dad in like a regular person and didn't look at him like a criminal, which is something that I really respected."

"He's living proof," Iñiguez said, "that the government isn't that bad as we thought."

Witness ties LI chief to NYPD payoffs

BY JOHN RILEY

john.riley@newsday.com

Star federal witness Jona Rechnitz on Wednesday finished two days of direct testimony in the NYPD payoffs-for-favors corruption trial in Manhattan federal court that detailed ties to an array of top cops including Stephen McAllister, now the Floral Park police chief.

Rechnitz, appearing at the trial of ex-business-partner Jeremy Reichberg and former NYPD deputy inspector James Grant, said McAllister — formerly an NYPD inspector — was among the circle of cop pals he and Reichberg plied with gifts to get their official help.

"I had bought him a Chopard watch, had given him a free diamond for his daughter who was getting engaged," Rechnitz testified. "And there were other jewelry and types of things that we did for him as well in addition to meals that we paid for."

In return, Rechnitz said, McAllister helped get rid of protesters outside a jewelry store owned by Rechnitz's controversial multimillionaire Israeli boss Lev Leviev, and was probably "involved" in providing VIP treatment when Leviev visited New York with a police escort and closure of a lane in the Lincoln Tunnel.

"Lev had told me this was the treatment he gets in Russia," Rechnitz recalled. "He was quite impressed."

Prosecutors say Rechnitz and Reichberg, both real estate investors, generated a wave of police and political corruption with pay-to-play contributions to Mayor Bill de Blasio as well as payoffs to cops including Grant — ranging from free meals and hotel stays to plane trips, home repairs and prostitutes — to enhance their clout in power circles.

Rechnitz pleaded guilty to multiple charges and agreed to cooperate in hopes of leniency. Former deputy chief Michael Harrington has pleaded guilty in the case. Other uncharged cops like McAllister have been discussed at trial in prosecutors' effort to prove Reichberg's intent.

McAllister joined Floral Park's police force in 2010, and his \$245,000-a-year contract as chief was extended for two years in April, after a village investigation. McAllister's lawyer Joel Weiss, responding to a description of Rechnitz's testimony, issued a statement calling it "replete with falsehoods."

"Apparently, Mr. Rechnitz has never met a lie he didn't like," Weiss said. "It's noteworthy that, in the face of all his allegations, the Government has charged Mr. McAllister with nothing, nothing at all."

The trial began Nov. 5. Along with claiming McAllister helped impress Rechnitz's one-time boss while at the NYPD, Rechnitz repeated previous testimony that as Floral Park chief McAllister arranged bogus appointments as police chaplains and clergy liaison with parking placards for he and Reichberg.

In addition to jewelry, he testified, McAllister was treated to free meals at Manhattan eateries such as Abigail's and The Prime Grill, got a free plane trip back from a football championship game in Miami, and had Rechnitz and Reichberg donate to the NYPD football team and a Nassau County golf tournament.

In addition to pictures of McAllister dining with Rechnitz, Reichberg and fellow cops, prosecutors introduced a 2013 email chain in which McAllister — "PC FPPD" — told Rechnitz he needed more time to arrange a dinner meeting with another chief, and then added, "Ask Jeremy status of ring?"

Rechnitz provided few details of the aid McAllister gave to impress Leviev, the head of Africa-Israel Investments whose role in the diamond trade has been controversial.

He testified that McAllister requested a \$25,000 donation to the NYPD football team when he was asked for help with protests outside Leviev's Madison Avenue store. It was provided, and the protesters "got quiet right away," Rechnitz said.

Rechnitz is scheduled to be cross-examined Thursday.