METRO

State Sen. Sampson charged with lying to FBI

By Selim Algar

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John Sampson gets a new charge added to the raft of corruption allegations levied against him

Embattled Brooklyn state Sen. John Sampson was hit with a fresh charge Monday, for allegedly lying to the feds about telling staffers to seek tax breaks for a liquor store he partly owned.

Sampson, already facing a slew of corruption raps, was indicted for "making false statements to FBI agents about directing members of his Senate staff to take actions to benefit a Brooklyn liquor store in which Sampson secretly held an ownership interest," federal prosecutors said.

They claimed Sampson was caught on tape trying to hide his involvement in the store's operations while applying for permits.

"During a series of telephone calls that were captured on the Sampson wiretap, the defendant . . . told the Partners that [his] ownership interest should not be disclosed in the Application," court papers state.

Sampson was also recorded telling a staffer to help him fend off tax liabilities associated with the shop, but denied doing so to FBI agents, officials said.

The wary pol told the employee to conduct the business over his own phone to avoid detection, papers state.

Sampson is already facing heavy jail time for allegedly embezzling nearly \$500,000 in escrow funds from Brooklyn

foreclosure deals he was charged with refereeing.

He will be arraigned on the new rap Wednesday in Brooklyn federal court. FILED UNDER <u>CORRUPTION</u>, JOHN SAMPSON

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