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Reputed mob leader pleads not guilty

By Eve Sullivan
Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Stamford resident and reputed mob underboss Anthony Megale pleaded not guilty to extortion and racketeering charges during an arraignment yesterday in federal court in Manhattan.

Megale, 51, of 105 Northwind Drive, who was indicted on the charges last month, is being held without bail while awaiting trial in federal court in New Haven on similar charges.

U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein continued the case until July 14 and didn't set any bond in the New York case.

"Since he's currently detained on the other case, it wasn't really an issue," Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Conniff said.

Though Megale was not present, his lawyers attended a status conference on his Connecticut case Monday in federal court in New Haven. At the meeting, U.S. District Judge Janet Arterton pushed his trial from May 5 until Sept. 5, so attorneys could have time to prepare.

"They put the trial off for four months primarily because of the New York indictment, which in some ways overlaps with the Connecticut indictment," said

Megale's attorney, Lindy Urso.

Because of the overlap in the allegations, Urso said both sides will need time to review all the information in the



Megale

New York case, which includes 5,000 hours of tapes from the government.

Government prosecutors also announced yesterday that they may move to disqualify New York attorney Joseph Corozzo from the defense team.

Corozzo withdrew himself from the Connecticut case after U.S. attorneys said there was a conflict of interest because he is related to reputed mobster Nicholas "Little Nicky" Corozzo and was caught on tape so-

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Danbury, during
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