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Former NYPD Commissioner Bernard Kerik pleads not guilty to new charges

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Former NYPD Commissioner Bernard Kerik (c.) leaves a White Plains court after his arraignment on new charges Monday.

Former NYPD top cop Bernard Kerik pleaded not guilty Monday to new charges of falsifying income tax records and not declaring a BMW luxury car he got as payment for consulting services.

The added charges involve falsifying statements on loan applications and his role in preparing false tax returns for 2002 and 2005. He was initially charged with falsifying tax returns for the year 2000.

Kerik, 53, wore a charcoal gray suit and a red and silver-striped tie. He stood with lawyer <u>Eric Tirschwell</u> as <u>White Plains</u> Federal Court Judge <u>Stephen Robinson</u> asked a series of questions about his state of mind before accepting the plea.

Robinson turned down Kerik's request to be tried in White Plains instead of a <u>Washington, D.C.</u>, court on charges of lying to the federal government when interviewed for secretary for Homeland Security in 2004.

"I'm not going to agree to this," said Robinson claiming it gave Kerik too much leeway in choosing judges.

"This is not about judge shopping," Tirschwell countered.

Robinson said he may re-visit the issue next month.

Robinson is also weighing making changes to Kerik's bail conditions. Kerik is free on \$500,000 bail. He also had to put up his lavish New Jersey home as collateral, relinquish his passport and agree to limited travel.

Kerik would not discuss the case with reporters.