

Enrique Iglesias Esta 'Bailando,' Walks Away From Traffic Case With \$169 Fine

Samantha Joseph, Daily Business Review

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Enrique Iglesias, *Zastavki.com*

"Bailando" singer Enrique Iglesias must be dancing his little heart out after beating all but one minor traffic charge Thursday in Miami.

The Grammy-winning superstar's case was scheduled Friday, but his lawyer kept out of the spotlight by appearing in court for him a day early to resolve the case as an extra calendar item. Iglesias was not required to appear in court and did not attend the hearing.

"I was in court today, and the prosecutor was there," defense attorney Howard Srebnick told the Daily Business Review. "Once he learned that the driver's license had been reinstated, he was ready to resolve the matter."

More good news for the Spanish crooner: His high-powered legal defense didn't cost him a dime.

"He's a former client and an old friend," Srebnick said. "We represented him for free."

Iglesias was due before Miami-Dade County Court Judge Betty Capote to answer three misdemeanor counts from a May 6 traffic stop by the Florida Highway Patrol. The officer said he crossed a flexible barricade to

enter closed express lanes on Interstate 95 while driving with an expired license, then switched seats and pretending to be the passenger.

Iglesias was charged with driving with an expired license and driving with a suspended license. He and his passenger, tour manager Abel Tabuyo of Miami, also faced one count of obstructing an officer without violence for switching seats. Both were released on the highway after signing a notice to appear in court.

The singer hired Black Srebnick Kornspan & Stumpf, the firm led by Roy Black, whose celebrity clients have included singer Justin Bieber, actor Kelsey Grammer and talk show host Rush Limbaugh.

Srebnick said Iglesias reinstated his expired license May 26, and the suspended license charge was a case of mistaken identity involving a man with a similar name.

Prosecutors dismissed the suspended and expired license charges. Iglesias agreed to pay a \$169 fine for crossing into the closed express lanes.

"This type of criminal traffic offense is typically nolle prossed when the defendant achieves compliance with the law," Assistant State Attorney Kevin Gerarde said in a statement explaining the dismissal of the other charges.