

EXCLUSIVEBY JOHN MARZULLI
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

IT'S GEEZER madness.

Federal prosecutors are seeking to raid the prison commissary account of a 98-year-old former Colombo underboss to pay off the forfeiture bill he owes for shaking down the Hustler strip club, the Daily News has learned.

John (Sonny) Franzese is the oldest inmate doing time in the federal prison system, but that's not cutting him any slack with the feds.

Assistant Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Laura Mantell has filed papers to seize the \$10,089 in the oldfella's account, which he uses to purchase items in the prison commissary, then leave him with \$250 in spending money.

"The government should be as diligent fighting ISIS as they are trying to take food money from a 98-year-old inmate," Michael Franzese, the gangster's son, told The News.

"Believe me, it really hurts him what they're doing," he said.

The wheelchair-bound Franzese was convicted in 2010 of racketeering charges, including the extortion of the jiggle joint, and ordered to fork over a \$116,500 forfeiture judgment.

He was sentenced to 96 months in prison, which he is serving at the Federal Medical Center, Devens, in Massachusetts.

But neither Franzese nor co-defendant Joseph DiGorga has contributed a nickel toward the judgment, the prosecutor contends in court papers. At the same time, the feds can't locate any assets of Franzese other than the commissary account.

Michael Franzese pointed out that the money in the account isn't really his father's, it was sent by family members.

"He doesn't have any money. He's broke," Michael Franzese said. "He uses the money to buy eye drops. He buys Cup-A-Soup, hygiene items. He doesn't eat any junk food, but once in a while he eats ice cream.

"He can't even make phone calls because they put a lien on the account. It's unbelievable," he fumed.

Franzese is scheduled to be released to a halfway house in February 2017 — just in time for his 100th birthday.

While Franzese may be hard of hearing and have poor eyesight, the prosecutor reminded Federal Judge Brian Cogan that he didn't make it this far without being tough.

"From a very young age, he engaged in relentless and increasingly brutal violence, and ultimately committed so many murders that he even struggled to keep track of them," Mantell argued.

Franzese's family has applied to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons under its "compassionate release" policy to allow his father to spend whatever time he has left alive at home instead of behind prison walls. They have not yet received an answer, according to Michael Franzese.

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STRIP HIS ACCOUNT

Payback time for mobster, 98



John (Sonny) Franzese (left at 2010 trial and above in younger days) shook down Hustler strip club. Son Michael (below) and other family members are trying to get him sprung from jail.

Overnight shoot spree

FIVE MEN were shot and wounded — including three hit outside a bowling alley — as gunfire echoed across Brooklyn and the Bronx this weekend, police said.

The bullet barrage began when a 24-year-old man was shot in the arm on Union Ave. near E. 163rd St. in Morrisania around 11:50 p.m. Friday. He was taken to Lincoln Hospital, officials said.

Roughly two hours later, a 33-year-old man was shot in the face on W. Burnside Ave. near Loring Place South in Morris Heights, police said. The man told police he was standing outside a corner store with a friend when shots rang out. As he ran for cover, he felt blood gushing down his face — a bullet had punched through his left cheek, officials said.

He was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital, where he is expected to make a full recovery.

In Brooklyn, three men were hospitalized following a drive-by shooting outside the Strike 10 Lanes on Strickland Ave. in Mill Basin at 2:20 a.m. The three men — the youngest 19 and the oldest 22 — were standing with a crowd when bullets started flying.

Each victim suffered gunshot wounds to their legs as the gunman in the car strafed the sidewalk, police said. All three were treated at Brookdale Medical Center.

Keldy Ortiz and Thomas Tracy

Vandals hit L.I. 9/11 memorial

POLICE ON Long Island are investigating the vandalism of a neighborhood's 9/11 memorial.

Bill Murphy, who has tended to the memorial for the last 10 years, told Newsday Saturday that the structure in Long Beach was toppled overnight.

It included plants and ceramic angels with red bows tied around them for Christmas.

A neighbor, Patricia Wagner, said she was crying her eyes out over the incident.

Murphy vows that the memorial will be rebuilt, and many have offered to help him. **AP**

Qns. flesh pit closed

THIS PLACE really put the "joint" in jiggle joint, cops said.

The Show Palace, an all-nude strip club in Long Island City, Queens, was shuttered Friday after investigators learned that servers were selling pot and cocaine.

The NYPD Narcotics Bureau conducted a number of investigations at the Show Palace, according to officials. "Waitresses were selling drugs to customers," the source said.

Messages left with staff were not returned. A post on the club's Facebook page said it was "temporarily closed." **Thomas Tracy**