

by Danielle Sireci, now 25, of West Islip.

Sireci said that police never said anything to her about finding prescription drugs, and she denied she was on medication.

"That is not a fact. The police have never brought it up to me. And I totally agree there should be drug and alcohol testing because I was sober, and it would prove 100 percent I was," she said earlier this month.

The DMV conducted a hearing on the accident on April 4, 2013, and an administrative law judge, Todd Schall, ruled on July 18, 2013, there was nothing to indicate Sireci had contributed to the accident. He ruled that she could keep her license, but he noted that police had been notified of the hearing and had not sent a representative.

"There is no indication in this case record . . . that drugs or alcohol were discovered at the scene or in respondent's vehicle, nor that the consumption of drugs or alcohol was suspected on the part of either [Sireci or James Walker]," Schall wrote in a decision dated April 4, 2013.

Suffolk police issued a statement saying they missed the hearing because the police officer was on vacation, and the department has "taken steps to ensure that future miscommunications do not take place."

State Sen. John Flanagan (R-East Northport) sponsored a bill that passed the Senate last year that would remove the requirement that there be signs of impairment before police can order a test of the driver. A similar, but not identical, bill passed the Assembly.

"I would love to see legislation that mandates testing, but there are fundamental issues of due process," Flanagan said. "This is a very interim, positive step."

Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice has criticized the current drug-testing law because illegal substances are defined only as those listed in the Public Health Law, which includes Adderall, but not such intoxicants as bath salts, some synthetic marijuana or the aerosol spray Dust-Off.

BY DAVID M. SCHWARTZ
david.schwartz@newsday.com

The Brookhaven Town Conservative Committee has sued the Suffolk Conservative Party and its chairman Edward Walsh for taking away the town's power to endorse candidates.

The federal lawsuit, brought under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization law, said Walsh tried to "intimidate and coerce" the town

party, the largest in the county, as he tried to increase his "political clout."

Vincent Messina Jr., attorney for Walsh and the Conservative Party, called the lawsuit frivolous. "We deny any allegation of wrongdoing by either chairman Walsh or the committee," he said. He declined to address specific charges because the litigation is ongoing.

On Oct. 8, the executive committee of the county party

voted to pull Brookhaven's authorization to issue Wilson-Pakula designations allowing non-party members to receive the Conservative ballot line. That vote came after Brookhaven Conservative co-chair Kenneth Auerbach of Port Jefferson tried to rally votes to challenge Walsh as county chairman.

Messina said county Conservatives followed all bylaws and rules when they revoked the town party's authorization.

The lawsuit, filed Friday in

U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, said Walsh repeatedly had threatened to take away the town party's Wilson-Pakula authorization since 2010.

William Wexler, another attorney for Walsh, said the FBI began investigating the county chairman on charges he collected salary at his county job for time he did not work. **Newsday.com**

