

MCC Director, Sapir Partners Free on Bond

Metropolitan Crime Commission director Aaron M. Kohn and two law partners of City Councilman Eddie L. Sapir are free on \$1,000 bond today after their indictment last night by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Kohn was indicted for public intimidation of Sapir and, in an unrelated case, attorneys Steven B. Plotkin and Sanford Krasnoff were indicted for public bribery.

Kohn's case was allotted today to the court of Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. The Plotkin-Krasnoff case was allotted to Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara.

THE INDICTMENTS of Plot-

kin and Krasnoff stemmed from the Susan Goldman murder case, in which the two attorneys represented former policeman Robert F. Blanchard while he was charged with manslaughter in the death of the 19-year-old baby sitter. The manslaughter charge was recently dismissed.

Kohn's indictment charged he committed public intimidation upon Sapir Oct. 3 when he asked the City Council to make a public inquiry into the possible effect of an alleged relationship between rackets figure Carlos Marcello and Sapir in connection with the latter's vote on a proposed charity

bingo ordinance.

Sapir denied the link to Marcello alleged by Kohn and said he would seek to bring charges against him. The City Council denied Kohn's request for a hearing.

KOHN DESCRIBED his indictment as "an abuse of criminal justice.

"I'm astonished but not surprised that this means would be used to divert attention," Kohn said.

"This has been one of the characteristics of those to whom power is delegated to use such power to shut up any who talk about the realities of organized crime."

When the District Attorney's office dismissed the manslaughter charge against Blanchard, it accused Plotkin and Krasnoff of persuading Betty Jones, 23, the state's chief witness, to change her testimony.

AT THE TIME, first assistant D. A. Charles Ray Ward said the attorneys were not charged with bribery because Miss Jones would not cooperate.

The indictment, however, charges that Plotkin and Krasnoff tried to bribe Linda Hodges, another witness, by offering her an all-expense round trip flight from New Orleans to any place of her choice on May 23.

The DA's office charged the offer was designed to prevent her from testifying before the grand jury on May 23, the day Blanchard was indicted.

Plotkin and Krasnoff said in a joint statement that the indictment came as a shock and surprise to them. They said they are "totally innocent of any of the charges."