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FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2002

n an Extortion Scheme

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in position on a
use renovation.

under the supervision of city
ives, agents from the Federal
investigation and federal pros-
O'Connell secretly tape-re-
al conversations with the coun-
made two \$9,000 payments to
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guez and Mr. Morales both
guilty yesterday in a brief pro-
re Magistrate Judge Steven M.
ral District Court in Brooklyn.
Rodriguez resigned from all of

his City Council committee positions, but he
did not resign from the full Council.

The charges against Mr. Rodriguez were
unusual because it was the first time that a
sitting City Council member had been en-
snared in a corruption investigation in near-
ly a decade, and because individual council
members are rarely thought to wield the
kind of power that would warrant such a
large bribe.

The waterfront development project cen-
tered on the \$15 million renovation of a
dilapidated red brick coffee warehouse into
the city's third and largest Fairway super-
market, a gastronomic mecca that Mr.
O'Connell contends would bring to the neigh-
borhood not only hundreds of cheeses and
other esoteric foods, but also 375 jobs.

"Some members of the community saw

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Report Finds Favoritism In Contracts

Inspector General Says Pataki Neighbor Gained

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

ALBANY, March 28 — State University of
New York officials repeatedly violated uni-
versity rules and twisted the process of
selecting consultants so that they could
award contracts to an architect who is Gov.
George E. Pataki's next-door neighbor and
a relative by marriage, the state inspector
general reported today.

Inspector General Roslynn R. Mauskopf,
a Pataki appointee, concluded that favorit-
ism played a role in the awarding of con-
tracts to the architect, James Copeland, and
his firm, Hudson Design, and in the bypass-
ing of the rules. She wrote that while there
were "procurement guidelines, rules and
regulations designed to ensure a fair and
open consultant selection process, these
were ignored."

Her 57-page report provides new detail
and documentation for charges made last
year in articles in *Newsday*, and in a report
by the state comptroller, H. Carl McCall.

Mr. Copeland lives next door to the gover-
nor in Garrison, in Putnam County, and is
married to a sister of the governor's wife,
Libby. In 1998 and 1999, Hudson Design was
awarded five state university contracts
worth more than \$200,000, and was tenta-
tively awarded another, worth more than \$1
million, but the project was put on hold.
Calls to the firm today were not answered.

Ms. Mauskopf's report said two high-level
Pataki appointees might have taken the
unusual step of asking a SUNY official who
oversaw architectural contracts to meet
with Mr. Copeland. It was after that meeting
that the university system began steering
work his way. But Ms. Mauskopf played



George Ruhe for The New York Times
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Mr. Dorjee, 33, arrived
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3/19/02

A Survey Reveals Sentiment For Keeping Shafts of Light

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

Having gingerly and gratefully grown reaccustomed to the nightly sight of two brilliant columns over Lower Manhattan — a compass point on which so many lives have turned — some New Yorkers seem reluctant to lose them again.

Since March 11, 88 searchlights mounted at Battery Park City, just west of the World Trade Center site, have cast parallel shafts into the sky every evening after dusk, as a temporary "Tribute in Light," scheduled to last two more weeks. Sometimes they ascend endlessly. Sometimes they merely tickle the bottom of low clouds.

But they have definitely struck a chord.

"It's a clear path to heaven," said the architect Ralph Mancini of Mancini Duffy, whose office was in the trade center's south tower. "It made me feel as if we were still there. It made me feel connected to a lot of people. It was a way for me to guide them to God. It was magnificent."

"I wish the lights could stay on until the first person moves into the new design of the trade center," he said, "as a symbol we're all together."

Mr. Mancini, it turns out, is not alone.

"At least for the time being — and maybe for all time — New Yorkers want those twin beams of light to soar," said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. He released a poll yesterday showing that 39 percent of 1,038 registered voters in the city feel the

A temporary tribute strikes a chord. A 'path to heaven,' says one resident.

lights should stay on until a permanent memorial is built and that 36 percent feel the lights themselves should be permanent.

Twenty percent feel the lights should be turned off April 13, as planned. And that is what will happen, said Kent L. Barwick, president of the Municipal Art Society, the chief sponsor of the project, in part because it was approved by various community groups, government agencies and victims' family members as a brief, finite gesture.

"Having made a set of commitments," Mr. Barwick said, "they ought to be honored." There are practical considerations, too. "This was conceived using rented equipment, borrowed materials and temporary structures on land that doesn't belong to us," he said.

The city is deferring to the Municipal Art Society on whether it would be feasible to resume the installation, said Jennifer E. Falk, deputy press secretary to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. Only then would there be a fuller discussion and public review of whether it should be continued.

Besides design, financing and engineering, such a review would have to account for the impact of searchlights on neighbors and on the birds that fly around them.

The New York City Audubon Society is strongly opposed to prolonging the installation, said a board member, Peter Rhoades Mott. Observers have not found any dead or injured birds around the site since March 11, he said, but have noticed that most change their flight patterns.

"Extending the 'Tribute' would substantially increase the likelihood of catastrophe for migrants," Mr. Mott said. Based on a five-year tally around the World Trade Center, some species most at risk would be the American woodcock, hermit thrush, gray catbird and black-throated blue warbler.

The project has won over some who were initially opposed. Anne Pasternak, executive director of Creative Time, a public arts group involved in coordinating the "Tribute in Light," said she had heard praise from someone who once feared the lights would make ground zero look like a used-car lot.

But Ms. Pasternak says she expects a debate if there is a move to make the memorial permanent, perhaps along the lines of whether twin light towers commemorate American economic dominance rather than lost lives.

Even some of the project's earliest supporters question how well it would work permanently.

"Everyone I know felt the thing that made it so strong was its impermanence," said Agnes Gund, president of the Museum of Modern Art. She said the beacons are "very spiritual now, but after a while it would feel like either they should be substantial or not be there."

For some New Yorkers, however, losing even a spectral representation of the trade center might be painful.

"As comforted as people are by seeing this anchor, they are very unsettled by the fact that it's temporary," said Gustavo Bonevardi, who worked on the design with John Bennett, Julian LaVerdiere, Paul Myoda, Richard Nash Gould and Paul Marantz.

"Everyone is questioning why it has to go," Mr. Bonevardi said. "Now that it's done, we feel that it belongs to the city. If that's what the people want to do, we're excited, willing and eager to help in having them come back."

It is clear that even an ephemeral "Tribute in Light" has left an indelible mark.

Richard A. Kahan, co-founder of Take the Field, a nonprofit group devoted to rebuilding athletic fields at public high schools, was on the US Airways shuttle from Washington the night after the lights were first turned on.

"The pilot was announcing it to everyone 50 miles away from New York: 'Those of you on the left side of the plane in 10 minutes will have a spectacular view of the memorial lights,'" Mr. Kahan said. "All of a sudden it struck me that for the pilot, this was part of the American landscape in the same way as other great national monuments."