

Mike's new plan for 9/11 aid

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Mayor Bloomberg has drawn up a new wish list for 9/11 federal emergency funds — making a pitch to shift money currently earmarked for the Port Authority and crisis counseling.

The list, which was obtained by the Daily News, also reapportions funds targeted for a major rehab of a damaged CUNY building near Ground Zero.

★ Bloomberg's new priorities were spelled out in a recent memo to Federal Emergency Management Agency director Joe Allbaugh.

Under the mayor's strategy, as much as \$690 million would then be freed up for other uses — more than the \$650 million that Bloomberg has been asking FEMA to give the city for budget relief.

New bunker needed

Bloomberg argues that the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks caused hundreds of millions of dollars in related costs that FEMA's strict rules currently won't cover.

Some of the money would go to pay for the city's new emergency bunker after the old one at 7 World Trade Center was destroyed.

Bloomberg also says the \$800 million that FEMA has earmarked for the PA, which owns the twin towers site, should be cut in half.

The mayor also called for moving \$55 million from the \$155 million allocated to Project Liberty, the post-9/11 crisis counseling service that has had a lower use than expected.

The \$170 million to remake Fiterman Hall, the damaged Borough of Manhattan Community College building just north of Ground Zero, should come down to \$60 million, Bloomberg argues.

A Bloomberg spokeswoman

confirmed the mayor met with Allbaugh, but wouldn't say what was discussed.

"Essentially, what they're talking about is trying to create additional remaining funds, and if the things they request are feasible, we'll entertain that," said Brad Gair, head of FEMA's lower Manhattan effort.

Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff has pushed for the \$650 million since last May. Gov. Pataki is

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seeking \$330 million in similar funds for the state.

FEMA revealed last month that all but \$366 million of the \$8.8 billion pot is already spoken for.

Beyond funding the new emergency bunker from \$418 million

meant for projects to guard against future attacks, Bloomberg hopes to use \$200 million of that money for police and fire costs.

But several agencies also want that money, including the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the PA, each of which has potential security projects that could qualify for such funds and has applied for them.

Pataki told The News' editorial board last year that he's pushing

FEMA to add roughly \$1 billion to the hazard mitigation funds to help give extra aid to the city. The state, which must submit applications for the hazard mitigation grant on behalf of all other agencies, has until March 11 to do so — the second extended deadline since last Sept. 11.

Gair said his office has been waiting for City Hall and Albany to say jointly what they want from the various pots of FEMA money.