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WHO'S RUNNING GROUP TO SAVE DOWNTOWN? NOT MAYOR GIULIANI

**Rudy Won't Go to Work
For Pataki and Gargano—
Despite Huge Decisions**

IT MAY BE JOHN WHITEHEAD, 79

**Meanwhile, Bloomberg Wants Input;
Bush Buddy Betts Said No Thanks**

BY ANDREW RICE

Rudy Giuliani's out. So is President Bush's buddy. But maybe the ex-banker will bite.

It's the latest parlor game among New York's political and business elites: guessing who among them will be chosen to lead the rebuilding of lower Manhattan. Ever since Governor George Pataki and Mayor Giuliani announced the formation of a public authority that will decide how to spend billions in federal aid, the city has been rife with rumors about who will be appointed to head it and, to a lesser extent, who will sit on its board. Aides to Mr. Pataki suggested that Mr. Giuliani could even get the nod, in tribute to his leadership during tough times.

That's not going to happen. Sources say Mr. Giuliani never wanted the job.

But Mr. Pataki may be closing in on a second choice, according to several sources in New York's business and labor communities. He is John C. Whitehead, a former Goldman Sachs executive and chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, who served as a deputy secretary of state during the Reagan administration.

Mr. Whitehead, in a message relayed by his secretary on Nov. 20, denied that he'd been approached about the job. The Governor's office was similarly tight-lipped.

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