

Gotbaum, Siegel Pick Up More Endorsements

By Pete Bowles

STAFF WRITER

With the end of their runoff campaigns for public advocate fast approaching, Democrats Norman Siegel and Betsy Gotbaum collected additional endorsements yesterday.

Siegel, the former head of the New York Civil Liberties Union, received endorsements from the city chapters of the National Organization for Women and the Sierra Club, while Gotbaum, a former parks commissioner, gained the support of the Rev. Floyd Flake, the influential minister of Allen AME Church in Jamaica.

There is no Republican candidate in

the race, so the winner of Thursday's Democratic runoff is expected to take office Jan. 1. Gotbaum finished first among seven candidates in the Sept. 25 primary with about 24.4 percent of the vote, while Siegel was second with about 16.5 percent.

The NOW chapter, in announcing its endorsement, said Siegel has been a longtime supporter of many of the issues that the organization champions.

"During his tenure with the NYCLU, the organization worked side by side with NOW on issues such as fighting racism and sexism within the Police Department, seeking establishment of a truly independent Civilian

Complaint Review Board and opposing the all-girls school in Harlem that has established an illegal separate-but-equal standard in our city," said Alexandra Leader, the chapter's executive director.

Ken Baer, political chairman of the Sierra Club's city chapter, said his group was impressed with Siegel's approach to environmental issues.

"He will be an excellent watchdog and advocate for our parks and gardens, for protecting our water and air quality and for environmental justice," Baer said.

Calling Gotbaum "one of New York's most effective problem-solvers," Flake said the candidate has the experience

and skills to help the city recover during a time of crisis.

"Over the years in both the public and private sectors, Betsy has worked to strengthen our communities, improve city parks and fight crime in all neighborhoods," said Flake, a former U.S. representative from Queens.

In their campaigning yesterday, Siegel marched in the Columbus Day Parade and attended a fund-raising event for the World Trade Center relief efforts sponsored by the Gay Officers Action League. Gotbaum joined the Columbia Society at a wreath-laying ceremony at Columbus Circle and visited two senior citizens centers in Forest Hills.

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