

Rebuilding Panel Announced

Pataki wants creation to act boldly; role for Giuliani being weighed

By Curtis L. Taylor
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Gov. George Pataki announced the formation of a state-city corporation Friday to coordinate lower Manhattan rebuilding — prompting speculation that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani could be tapped to lead the agency when he leaves City Hall.

Pataki, with Giuliani at his side, said that it was important to have “this entity up and running now,” especially with the Bush administration sending a \$2.8 billion rebuilding allocation to New York.

Giuliani wouldn’t rule out taking a role with the new Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Corp., saying,

“We’ve talked about that, but we really haven’t made a decision.”

Pataki said the key lesson from the Sept. 11 attacks is the need for the city and state to “aggressively” create and implement a rebuilding plan.

“New York remains the most vibrant, thriving city in the world, but we must act decisively and boldly to ensure that the city remains the capital of the world for generations to come,” Pataki said at his midtown office.

The agency will function as a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corp. and have similar powers. The ESDC helped trigger the revitalization of Times Square from eyesore to family tourist attraction.

The new agency will also hold con-

demnation authority through its parent, which is led by Charles A. Gargano.

Yesterday, both the mayor and governor provided little specifics on how the new authority’s chairman or board will be selected.

Giuliani said that concessions will be made to allow the mayor-elect to have input.

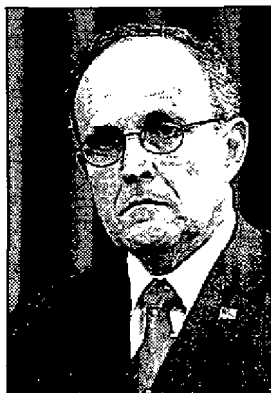
GOP mayoral candidate Michael Bloomberg, however, said he disapproved of the governor’s plan.

“Well, it’s not the first time, nor will it be the last I probably will disagree with the governor,” said Bloomberg, who was endorsed by the Republican governor.

Democratic rival Mark Green, who previously proposed such a joint authority, said that he would “take a close look at the governor’s proposal and discuss it with him and with our legislative leaders.

“With billions of dollars in federal, state and city money at stake...all have to be at the rebuilding table,” Green said.

With a \$2 billion city budget deficit looming, the next mayor will have to balance the recovery effort with the city’s ongoing needs in areas like affordable housing, schools and overall economic development.



AP Photo

Giuliani may have key role.

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