NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

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Bernie Kerik, NYPD

Rudy Giuliani has been a pillar of strength during the crisis of the last week and a half.

But he hasn't done it alone, not by a long shot.

Among others, he's had Police Commissioner Bernie Kerik at his side.

Kerik is a cop's cop: Nobody has ever questioned his toughness, or his smarts, or his ability to lead.

And lead he has.

Not only has the city been safe since the attack (crime is down 30 percent from the same period last year), it *feels* safe — fears of renewed terrorism aside.

The NYPD has absorbed a horrific blow, recovered — and, indeed, set the city on the road to recovery.

Kerik's calm professionalism as he stood by Giuliani at press conference after press conference made it clear that the NYPD was on the job.

And the outer-borough, cop-on-the-beat accent that informs his speech has been restorative as well.

No one knows what the weeks and months ahead will bring.

And soon there will be a new mayor, with notions of his own as to what makes a good police commissioner.

Kerik, of course, already has said that he doesn't want to stay on after Giuliani's departure.

What a shame.

As far as we're concerned — and, we suspect, New York too — Bernie Kerik needs to remain commissioner.

For life.

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