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MIKE ALBANS DAILY NEWS

Mayor Giuliani and Sen. Hillary Clinton look pensive as they view scene of devastation at Ground Zero yesterday.

Vallone to Rudy: Lead the rebirth

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF

Mayor Giuliani's tenure in City Hall is almost over. But his role in redefining New York's future may be just beginning.

City Council Speaker Peter Vallone (D-Queens) is eagerly pursuing Giuliani to take part in or lead an advisory commission to guide downtown redevelopment.

Under Vallone's plan, the mayor would be able to handpick seven members to serve five-year terms on the commission, which could be granted broad power to rebuild lower Manhattan after the World Trade Center terrorist attacks.

Vallone is so eager to recruit Giuliani that he is open to revising "just about everything" to win City Hall's support for the plan, one adviser said.

"He would hope that Rudy would play a role in the commission, if Rudy wants to do it," the aide said.

As for concerns Giuliani might upstage the next mayor, the aide said, "Peter is more concerned with what would be best for the city, and calling on Mayor Giuliani to assist in the reconstruction in lower Manahttan is in the best interest of New York."

Vallone's legislation calls for amending the City Charter to create a commission that would help businesses wounded in the Sept. 11 destruction of the Trade Center.

Details on its powers were vague in a draft of the legislation released earlier this week.

Another mayoral candidate, Public Advocate Mark Green, proposed a broader rescue plan yesterday and said of Giuliani, "I look forward to working with Rudy Giuliani in any capacity."

Meanwhile, Giuliani made a trip to Washington last night to attend President Bush's address to the nation, telegraphing a strengthening relationship between City Hall and the White House. They were to meet privately prior to the address.

And with Giuliani leaving office Dec. 31, he will presumably be looking for work.

He has a $3 million deal with Talk Miramax Books for a memoir and a how-to book on management, and he could bank millions more on the lecture circuit or by taking corporate positions.

Even if the mayor is offered a job leading a Marshall Plan-like effort to rebuild lower Manhattan, it's not known if he would want it.

Giuliani still has $2.6 million in his campaign account and has hinted he might run for mayor in 2005. He appears certain to bypass a run for the governorship in 2002, an option aides once said he was considering.

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