NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEW YORK POST, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001

MIKE SHOWS SOME UNITY WITH UNIONS

By MAGGIE HABERMAN and ROBERT HARDT Jr.

Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg yesterday acted like it was Labor Day — meeting with two of the city's most important municipal union leaders and touring the offices of his transition headquarters near City Hall.

After getting more sleep than he did Tuesday night — and receiving a congratulatory call from former President Bill Clinton — Bloomberg held separate meetings and press conferences with teachers union head Randi Weingarten and District Council 37 boss Lee Saunders.

"I want them to make sure that they understand they will always have access to me," Bloomberg told reporters following his meeting with Saunders at the Gay Men's Health Crisis headquarters in Chelsea.

"I'm a believer in inclusiveness," Bloomberg added.

"I appreciate the fact that he reached out," Saunders said. "We want to develop a partnership."

At her United Federation of Teachers headquarters, Weingarten tried to brush off the fact that just two weeks ago, she was bashing Bloomberg and praising his Democratic rival, Mark Green.

"I'm not going to play the sour grapes game," said Weingarten, who is negotiating a new contract for her members.

"Bloomberg won. He did a great job. He deserves our support."

Bloomberg told New Yorkers that they should do a better job appreciating the hard work of city employees.

"I've said a lot of times, just walk up to anybody that works for the city, look them in the eye, shake their hand, and say 'Thanks for doing a good job,'" Bloomberg said.

The billionaire Republican tried to continue his "big tent" strategy last night as he planned to attend a gala dinner at the Hilton held by the minority business organization, One Hundred Black Men.

And in an interview with CNN, Bloomberg noted "that we have a city that's the greatest city in the world but there's been some divisiveness."

Bloomberg toured his city-provided transitional space at 253 Broadway, where workers put up a sign with him name on it just minutes before he arrived. But Bloomberg said he's not sure that he'll be moving the transition completely downtown.

Instead, Bloomberg said he will likely split his transition operations between the city offices near City Hall and his Midtown campaign headquarters.

Asked if he has made any decisions about his transition team, Bloomberg said: "Yes, but I've not made any decisions that I'm going to share with you today."

On a lighter note, Bloomberg said he wasn't sure if he would fill City Hall with all the free food and aquarium tanks that he has in his Midtown corporate offices.

"I think that some things don't translate," he said.

CITY_21MC100_011832704

NYC-WTC_000414719