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# MIKE PUTS KIBOSH ON YULETIDE BASH

By KAREN PLITT
and PHILIP RECCHIA

Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg has let Osama bin Laden steal Christmas this year for the thousands of employees who work for the billionaire's worldwide financial powerhouse.

Bloomberg has canceled company-funded holiday parties, blaming the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

In an intra-company e-mail sent to all Bloomberg employees, the boss wrote: "Somehow in light of the enormity of the Sept. 11th loss that has affected families, friends and colleagues of ours, I think it would be appropriate to direct our efforts towards helping those in need rather than have holiday parties around the world this year."

The Bloomberg staff, called "Bloombergers" by their boss, were told that reaching out to others rather than partying would give them "the personal satisfaction that once again, both collectively and personally, we've made a difference."

But the holiday fun for baby Bloombergers survived.

The company's annual kids bash — this year a day at the Big Apple circus — will still go ahead, but only for the children of the immediate families of employees.

"Any unused tickets will be donated to children less fortunate than ours," Bloomberg wrote.

Past Bloomberg staff Christmas parties have been extravagant affairs featuring plenty of booze, balloons and bonhomie. More than 5,000 guests attended last year's stunning soiree at the Museum of Natural History.

"We felt it would be more appropriate to put our efforts into something more charitable," said Bloomberg spokeswoman Chris Taylor.

New York's next mayor, who spent more than $60 million of his own money to fund his successful campaign, is not alone in scaling back holiday celebrations across the city this year.

The HBO cable network is keeping the wrapping paper on its usual standing-room-only shindig.

A recent company-wide e-mail from CEO Jeff Bewkes advised employees of the cancellation and suggested that being with families during these times was more important than partying.

Bewkes gave all employees an extra day off to spend with family — Dec. 31 — and said HBO would make contributions to disaster-related charities in their employees' names instead of staging a holiday party.

Other companies that have opted to make a fund donation rather than party this year include Wall Street giant Standard & Poor's.

President Leo O'Neill said: "We have decided to scale back on our holiday gathering and have donated $15,000 to the Engine 4/Ladder 15 Family Fund [for relatives of 14 firefighters lost in the World Trade Center tragedy]. It's the right thing to do this year."

***Ray Kelly may return as top cop / Page 25***

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