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Ex-Commish Kelly To Be Top Cop Again

KELLY from A5

At a news conference Friday, Kerik announced he will leave the Police Department at year's end.

He told reporters then that he had informed Bloomberg of his decision earlier Friday.

He added that while Bloomberg had asked him to stay on, Kelly never contacted him about the job — contrary to what Bloomberg had said would occur when Kelly endorsed the Republican candidate.

Kelly, as commissioner under Dinkins, perhaps was best known for traveling to black churches around the city to recruit minority members for the department. When Rudolph Giuliani became mayor, he dismissed Kelly in favor of Bill Bratton.

Giuliani and Bratton criticized Kelly at the time for his support of "community policing," a concept begun under Dinkins, which top Bratton aides referred to as "glorified social work."

Many believed the criticism of Kelly was unfair, as he was attempting to fine-tune a program begun by Dinkins' first police commissioner, Lee Brown. People close to Kelly say he never forgave Giuliani or Bratton.

After leaving the department, Kelly, a Marine colonel who served in Vietnam, led a United Nations military expedition to Haiti to train a Haitian police force.

Kelly, who also is a lawyer and has a master's degree from Harvard University, next served as undersecretary of the Treasury under President Bill Clinton and then as commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service before getting the position at Bear Stearns.

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