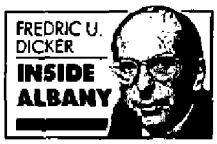
NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEW YORK POST, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2001

McCall vows to take page from Rudy's book



STATE Comptroller Carl McCall will relaunch his campaign for governor tomorrow, pledging to reform state finances and help lead the fight against terrorism.

Democrat McCall, in a half-hour policy speech to be delivered at New York University, will promise to bring a new era of "balanced, sound and on-time budgets" to the state and to issue annual report cards — similar to those issued by Mayor Giuliani — assessing his own performance in office, a source close to McCall told The Post.

McCall, who suspended his campaign after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, will also say that "nothing else matters" in New York if the public isn't protected from terrorism.

"For the duration of our nation's war on terrorism and beyond, New York will remain on the front line and we must be prepared for the years ahead," McCall will say.

"I will not only strengthen our existing [security] network, I will create new models that will lead the nation, and our preparedness will extend to every firefighter, every police officer, every health-care worker and every member of the National Guard."

McCall pledges in the speech to "lay out his priorities and principles and make some very specific commitments to the voters of this state, something [that] will be able to hold him to once he is elected governor," a campaign source said.

The speech by McCall, who is battling former federal Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo for the right to take on GOP Gov. Pataki, isn't expected to address the potential for racial divisiveness in the Democratic primary.

That potential was raised by state Democratic Chairman Judith Hope earlier this month after Mark Green was defeated by Republican Michael Bloomberg in a mayoral election that saw some black and Hispanic Democrats accuse Green of racial bias.

Hope said she believed that either McCall, the only African-American ever elected to statewide office, or Cuomo, who is white, should drop out of the governor's race to avoid a further racial divide.

But McCall and Cuomo both rejected her call, and Hope was forced to resign a few days later.

Recent public-opinion polls have shown Pataki, who is expected to seek re-election next year, with a commanding lead over both Cuomo and McCall and with a job-approval rating of about 80 percent.

McCall, meanwhile, blasted Pataki yesterday for allegedly not fighting hard enough to get federal aid for New York in the wake of the Sept. 11 attack.

"The governor should be down in Washington pounding on doors and fighting for New York," McCall said.

Pataki has sought a whopping $54 billion in special federal aid for New York, but some Washington lawmakers have complained that the governor damaged the state's case by seeking so much.

CITY_21MC100_011833237

NYC-WTC_000415136