NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2001

Bloomberg Names Governmental Advisers

By JENNIFER STEINHAUER

Mayor-elect Michael R. Bloomberg offered a peek yesterday into how his transition is shaping up, and a few tidbits on what has been on his mind this week, including the notion that housing should be part of any rebuilding plan in Lower Manhattan.

Mr. Bloomberg announced that he had appointed yet another large group, made up mostly of elected officials, who he said would advise him on practical issues in government. The group, which includes several lawmakers and Borough President Guy V. Molinari of Staten Island, will not formally guide him on appointments, he said, but rather advise him on how to work with the State Legislature and Washington.

"There is a lot of knowledge here and I want to take advantage of it," he said.

Mr. Bloomberg attended a news conference held yesterday by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Gov. George E. Pataki to announce the members of a panel to advise on the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site. He said he believed that housing should be part of those plans.

"There is a lack of affordable housing in this city and a lack of school buildings in this city," he said. "At the moment, there seems to be a lot of office space. I don't think we should automatically go and say what we decided to put in that space in 1960 is necessarily right for today."

Howard J. Rubenstein, a spokesman for Larry Silverstein, the developer who took control of the World Trade Center in August, made an unsolicited call yesterday to a reporter to convey Mr. Silverstein's thoughts on the matter. "Larry Silverstein was considering the possibility of a hotel at the base and condos above them," he said. "So he is thinking about mixed use. Silverstein isn't locked into any set plans."

Mr. Bloomberg said he expected to start announcing his deputy mayors and some key commissioners over the next few weeks, and reiterated that no one in the Giuliani administration was a shoo-in for a job. Some members of the transition team said they believed that nearly every commissioner had reapplied for his or her job, according to the Bloomberg team's instructions to all those who wished to continue to serve.

"Just because they're experienced doesn't mean they're going to get the job," said Mr. Bloomberg, adding that he had told some officials thanks, but no thanks. Some of those people, whom he declined to name, had a "different approach" from the one he wants to pursue, he said.

Among commissioners who have declined to stay are the police and fire commissioners and the cultural affairs commissioner, Schuyler G. Chapin.

Mr. Bloomberg also said he did not favor a lavish inauguration. "I don't think that this is, given what's happened recently, an appropriate time for lavish parties and celebration," he said. In 1998, Mayor Giuliani held 11 inaugural parties and events, spread over three days, costing more than $400,000.

CITY_21MC100_011833474

NYC-WTC_000415324