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From MTA to Mike deputy

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Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg is expected to tap Marc Shaw, the former budget director under Mayor Giuliani, as a deputy mayor, sources said yesterday.

Shaw, currently executive director of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, also served as the City Council's director of finance.

He refused to comment last night. But sources with knowledge of Bloomberg's transition plans indicated that the 47-year-old had accepted an offer to become deputy mayor.

Shaw would be Bloomberg's second major appointment. Ray Kelly was named police commissioner last month.

The announcement could come in the next few days, although Bloomberg is to leave tomorrow for Israel.

Gov. Pataki will accompany Bloomberg on the trip, which is designed to express solidarity with the Israeli people after a rash of bombings and shootings.

Giuliani, who suggested he might go with Bloomberg and Pataki, said through aides that he won't be going.

The mayor is committed to attend a firefighter's funeral tomorrow, his aides said, but would try to get to Israel after the funeral.

The trip on Bloomberg's private jet is being paid for by the billionaire businessman — one of several examples of the media mogul's continued largess after his record-breaking $69 million mayoral bid.

The Israel visit follows an all-expense-paid trip — again on his private jet — for a delegation of officials to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

An aide said yesterday that precise dollar amounts were not available for the cost of the visits to the Caribbean and Israel. One estimate pegged the Israel trip at $120,000.

Two days ago, Team Bloomberg confirmed the mayor-elect may plow some of his fortune into restoring Gracie Mansion. "It's an option," spokesman Jerry Russo said.

So is there a limit to how much Bloomberg will spend?

When asked yesterday about his plans for Gracie Mansion, Bloomberg made clear he doesn't anticipate tapping into his personal fortune — estimated at more than $4 billion — every time there's a city need.

"I cannot personally go and take care of all of the needs of New York City, even though some people have suggested that," he said.

More convenient

Bloomberg said he uses his own plane for trips because it's more convenient than flying on a commercial jet.

He said the visit to Israel "is a trip that if we had to go commercially, I probably could not do because I have to be here in New York to work on the transition team."

Bill Cunningham, a senior Bloomberg strategist, said the billionaire is saving taxpayers money.

"Any time he uses his own resources for something out of the ordinary — like the trip to Israel, like his trip to the Dominican Republic, which are legitimate trips — any savings that accrues to the taxpayer is a benefit to all New Yorkers."

Bloomberg said he is planning a no-frills inauguration Jan. 1. But Cunningham conceded his boss may kick in some of his money for a reception.

DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2001

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