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Bloomy names big 3

Fills top posts with eye toward diversity

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Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg filled three key positions in his cabinet yesterday, naming as deputy mayors a top transit executive, a longtime aide to former Mayor Ed Koch and the head of the Urban League.

In tapping Marc Shaw, Patricia Harris and Dennis Walcott, Bloomberg picked insiders who have experience navigating City Hall politics. He also ensured that his inner circle will include a woman and a black man.

"I think they're the right people for the problems facing this city," Bloomberg said.

Shaw, who served as budget director under Mayor Giuliani, is leaving his post as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's executive director to become Bloomberg's deputy mayor of operations.

He will supervise most commissioners on a day-to-day basis and wield power second only to the mayor's in setting budgets and policies.

The priority will be trying to fill looming budget gaps over the next four years, Shaw said, and, "Given the fact that the city's in a recession, [there are] going to be very tough choices."

Harris, a longtime Koch aide who has led the corporate communications department at Bloomberg LP since 1994, was named deputy mayor for administration and will oversee the operation of City Hall, as well as cultural institutions and parks.

'The right guy'

Sources close to Bloomberg said Harris rejected an offer to become chief of staff because of the time demands. Depending on how the cabinet shapes up, however, she could end up with many of those responsibilities.

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Bloomberg called Walcott, the Urban League's president since 1990, "The right guy to help me in formulating policy and to make sure that we understand who we're here to serve and that nobody gets left out in this city."

Under Walcott, the new deputy mayor for policy, the Urban League worked to increase voter registration among minority groups and youths. He has served on the Board of Education and was appointed by Giuliani to a police-community relations commission.

More names coming

Bloomberg already named his police commissioner and press secretary and will make more announcements next week.

It remains to be seen what role some key campaign aides will play, including Bill Cunningham, a senior strategist, and Kevin Sheekey, a staff chief for ex-Sen. Daniel Moynihan.

Some of it may come down to money. Team Bloomberg looked into supplementing the salaries of top aides by tapping into the mayor-elect's vast personal wealth, as former Gov. Nelson Rockefeller did. But the idea was scrapped as questionable under current law, and Bloomberg said yesterday that he has no intention of sweetening the pot in that way.

The incoming deputies will make roughly the same as their predecessors in the Giuliani administration, Bloomberg said. Current deputy mayors make $168,000 a year. The mayor-elect renewed his vow to forgo the mayor's $195,000 salary and to work for $1 a year.

Names being mentioned as candidates on Bloomberg's short list for jobs:

- For director of the mayor's Office of Management and Budget, Diana Fortuna, the president of the Citizens Budget Committee, a nonpartisan group.
- For corporation counsel, Eve Burton, a former lawyer for the Daily News and CNN with an extensive background in First Amendment, labor and employment law.

With Dave Saltonstall

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