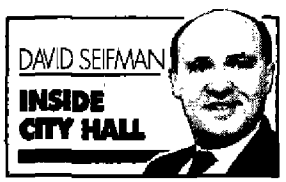
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NEW YORK POST, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2001

Mike and Freddy fast friends



BRONX Borough President Fernando Ferrer — defeated in the bitter Democratic mayoral primary by Mark Green — is chatting regularly with Mayor-elect Mike Bloomberg.

Bloomberg met with Ferrer publicly after the election, and later sounded him out about taking a job in the administration, perhaps as deputy mayor.

Ferrer politely declined.

"He's not going to go to work in a Bloomberg administration," said one source.

Nevertheless, a relationship was forged.

Ferrer offered to be available "if Bloomberg wanted to pick his brain," according to one insider.

Lately, Bloomberg's been doing a lot of picking.

"He calls Freddy at least once a week," said one source.

"From Freddy's perspective, the guy's going to be mayor for four years, maybe eight years. To the extent he can influence things from a policy perspective, it's worth doing."

From Bloomberg's perspective, it certainly can't hurt to have Ferrer as a friend.

"Freddy is smart. He is an astute government insider with a huge constituency," pointed out one Ferrer ally. "It's a good move."

Ferrer, uncharacteristically, declined comment.

By the time he takes office Jan. 1, Bloomberg will have chatted with just about every top elected official in town.

This week, he met separately with the five borough presidents and the five district attorneys.

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Bloomberg has repeatedly declared that he intends to maintain his privacy over his four years at City Hall.

Don't bet on it, says Mayor Giuliani.

"This is a job — being mayor of New York — that requires a very intimate relationship between you and the people of the city, probably more intimate than you want to have," Giuliani said on WCBS Radio Thursday night.

"After a while, you just give up and say, that's what it is. Go with it."

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MIKE BLOOMBERG
Offered Ferrer a job.

Police brass are furious that Carnegie Hall wouldn't waive strict union rules at Monday's emotional NYPD medal ceremony.

TV cameras were limited because there was a $700 charge for each connection. Crews couldn't shoot more than 30 minutes, the same restriction applied to musical performances.

CNN Radio arrived late and was barred.

A New York 1 producer exceeded the time limit and had to plead to tape the last of 23 medals awarded posthumously to families of cops who died at the World Trade Center.

There were so many complaints that Giuliani moved his press conference to the street.

Ann Diebold, Carnegie Hall's p.r. director, said the city didn't provide enough notice to try to get the iron-clad rules waived.

"In this particular situation, the press and exact media needs were made known to us very, very late," she said.

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Talk won't come cheap when Giuliani leaves office.

Sources said Giuliani is being besieged by speaking requests, which are likely to generate huge fees.

Giuliani is expected to command $75,000-plus per speech, putting him in the same league as former President Bill Clinton and other national figures.

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