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Silver raps downtown rehab panel

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Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver criticized yesterday the new joint state-city agency charged with overseeing the redevelopment of lower Manhattan because it hasn't met to discuss construction of a Sept. 11 memorial.

Silver (D-Manhattan) said the two-week-old agency has left the plan to establish a permanent memorial to those killed in the World Trade Center attack in limbo.

"No one is talking about it yet," he said. "No has put the planning mechanism in place."

But Michael Marr, a spokesman for the state development agency that approved the creation of the Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Corp., dismissed Silver's comments.

"We've done an enormous amount to help lower Manhattan recover, and we are going to continue to do so without concern for partisan politics," Marr said.

Silver has objected to the makeup of the corporation because Gov. Pataki and Mayor Giuliani, both Republicans, made all nine appointments.

The panel plans to have its first meeting Dec. 20, said member Paul Crotty, Verizon group president for New York and Connecticut.

Silver insisted yesterday that the agency should have huddled immediately — especially after Pataki said the appointments had to be made before Giuliani left office at the end of the year.

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