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# WATCHDOG WITH A BARK

## New comptroller vows he'll get fiscal with mayor

By FRANKIE EDOZIEN

Comptroller-elect Bill Thompson says he's going to spend the next four years looking closely over Mayor-elect Mike Bloomberg's shoulder.

The Brooklyn native and former president of the Board of Education told The Post he's already had substantive talks with Bloomberg and looks forward to working with him.

"That's the way the office has been designed, so that someone looks over the mayor's shoulder. I plan upon doing that job," Thompson said in an interview.

"Because you intend on working together doesn't mean that you wouldn't comment on both the fiscal implications of what they're doing, their performance."

Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler said the mayor-elect "is looking forward to working with the comptroller-elect."

Thompson, who will be the city's chief financial officer, said he's going to seek greater powers to block city contracts.

"[The comptroller] is able to hold contracts for a short period of time, but you're not able to block them for reasons other than malfeasance. I think that's an area that the comptroller needs to have greater authority on," he said.

Thompson, who takes over from Alan Hevesi on Jan. 1, believes he should "be able to reject or hold contracts, perhaps for reasons under than malfeasance, if the correct process was not adhered to."

Giving the comptroller more power would require a revision of the City Charter, which, without mayoral approval, would take a referendum — an extremely difficult task to pull off.

Even though the soft-spoken Thompson projects a non-confrontational image, he plans to be aggressive in auditing city agencies while publicizing his findings heavily.

"That's a way to engage the public in the discussion of service improvements and create a bit more of a public counterbalance to the mayor," he said.

Other priorities for Thompson include investing more pension funds in affordable housing and looking at bond issues to create savings.

He'll also speak out on the redevelopment of lower Manhattan if warranted.

While he is proud of being only the second African-American elected to citywide office, he says it comes with added responsibility.

"When I talk about making sure each community gets its equitable share of services, that includes African-American and Latino families," he said.

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