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Rudy in Plans to Start Business With Staffers

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Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said yesterday that a government job is not in his immediate future but "new challenges" could lead him to start his own business with several administration staffers when he leaves City Hall.

Giuliani said that while he was not "shutting the door" on elected office or a government appointment, "right now, that isn't where I see my life going for a while."

When asked about the business plan, Giuliani called it a "good idea" still being worked on.

"I want to complete the book that I am working on, I want to help establish a business along the lines that we are exploring, although we haven't finalized it yet, and I would like to spend some time in private life," he said.

The mayor's comments came a day after published reports yesterday said that he was seriously considering starting his own firm to provide management consulting, business and financial services, including investments and strategic planning.

Giuliani was reportedly negotiating to bring at least 15 people from his staff, including Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen and his spokeswoman, Sunny Mindel, along with him.

The proposed firm would be partially financed by Ernst and Young, one of the nation's largest accounting firms. Ernst and Young officials did not immediately return calls.

Yesterday, Giuliani said that he sought and received a waiver from the city's Conflict of Interest Board to discuss such a plan with staffers. City ethics laws require a one-year wait before a former employee can lobby the city on behalf of an outside business.

Giuliani, whose popularity has soared both locally and internationally since Sept. 11, earlier this year signed a $3-million deal to write an autobiography and management book. He is expected to command $100,000 per speech on the lecture circuit after his term expires Dec. 31.

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