NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEWSDAY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2001

Names of City Hall Past

Bloomberg's team looks at several pre-Rudy picks

By Dan Janison and Jessica Kowal
STAFF WRITERS

Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg's transition team is considering more names from the Koch and Dinkins years — and a few of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's aides — for key City Hall posts, sources said yesterday.

Peter Madonia, a former deputy fire commissioner who is said to be a skillful problem-solver, has been mentioned in political circles as a contender for chief of staff and fire commissioner.

Vincent LaPadula, who initially came through Staten Island Republican and Liberal party connections to the Giuliani administration, was mentioned early on for chief of staff. He also told friends recently of an interest in the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, where he has served as chief of staff under Giuliani.

LaPadula and Madonia are working out of Bloomberg's transition office, but Madonia referred a caller to the press office and LaPadula did not return a phone message seeking comment. Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler said yesterday that he could confirm no such speculation and no further appointments were announced.

Transportation Commissioner Iris Weinshall has her fans among transition advisers who wish to keep her in place or in another prominent role under Bloomberg. But some transportation advocates are pushing for Janette Sadik-Khan, who directed former Mayor David Dinkins' transportation office.

Because the four of five deputy mayors picked so far are registered Democrats, Staten Island's outgoing Borough President Guy Molinari, a Republican, has urged Bloomberg to name Republicans to his team. Giuliani, who also supported Bloomberg, a newly minted Republican, expressed confidence that his successor would do so. "I think he is focused in the right direction," Giuliani said. "I think eventually he will appoint enough people in different groups so everybody will be satisfied."

Giuliani said he was confident of the mayor-elect's focus after a conversation they had while dining.

It was over dinner in his brownstone mansion that the mayor-elect recently greeted the incoming borough presidents and some city councilmembers — prompting questions about gift rules under the city charter. The law bars public officials from accepting gifts worth $50 annually from someone who does business with the city, but there are allowable exceptions, said Wayne Hawley, Conflicts of Interest Board counsel.

Bloomberg's company, Bloomberg LP, leases seven computer terminals to the comptroller's office and Housing Authority for about $108,000 a year, said company spokeswoman Chris Taylor.

Meanwhile, Gov. George Pataki told Newsday yesterday that he plans to reimburse Bloomberg for their recent trip to Israel on Bloomberg's private jet. Guiliani and his girlfriend, Judith Nathan, also went on the trip — which was to express solidarity with the Jewish state — but they did not fly on Bloomberg's jet.

Staff writer Curtis Taylor contributed to this story.

CITY_21MC100_011834313

NYC-WTC_000415944