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Mike plans 'courtly' inaugural

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

Mayor-elect Mike Bloomberg's plans for his inaugural ceremony include a private reception at the newly renovated Tweed Courthouse, sources said yesterday.

Bloomberg is still ironing out some of the details for Jan. 1, when he'll be sworn in as the city's 108th mayor on the steps of City Hall before roughly 5,000 invited guests.

But so far, he's planning on an after-party at the gleaming Tweed Courthouse, just behind City Hall — its first major event since its $90 million facelift, sources said.

Officials are traditionally sworn in at private ceremonies at the stroke of midnight on Jan. 1, before the official inaugural festivities.

But Bloomberg is considering holding his in Times Square, sources said. It would be the first time the ceremony would be held at such a public forum.

Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler declined comment on any details about the inauguration.

But sources said Bloomberg, who has said he wants a low-key inaugural, will almost certainly foot the bill for the party — which will probably be a wine-and-cheese affair, sources said.



MIKE BLOOMBERG
Party at Tweed Courthouse.

That would be comparable to the one Mayor Giuliani had after his first swearing-in ceremony in 1993 — and a stark contrast to Bloomberg's election-night, $100,000 soiree at B.B. King's in Times Square, where guests dined on a buffet of filet mignon.

Sources said Bloomberg — whose office is working with incoming Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum and Comptroller-elect Bill Thompson — may also try to involve the incoming City Council members in the ceremony.

Bloomberg's office has also reached out to the student band at the Kipp Academy, a Bronx charter school he visited during the campaign.

During the stump stop, Bloomberg promised to host the kids at his inaugural if he won.

The state's top jurist, Chief Judge Judith Kaye, may swear in Bloomberg, sources said.

While Thompson, Gotbaum and Bloomberg will split the pool of tickets for the ceremony, Bloomberg is likely to invite a cross-section ranging from religious leaders to campaign supporters to people who didn't back his candidacy, sources said.

Thompson will be sworn in by his father, a retired judge.

Gotbaum's office couldn't be reached for comment.

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