NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEW YORK POST, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2001

MEET BLOOMY'S GAL



STAND BY YOUR MAN: An overjoyed Diana Taylor (circled) helps boyfriend Michael Bloomberg celebrate his victory the other night. N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg

She's a corporate bigwig herself

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

Mike Bloomberg doesn't come to the job with a first lady — but he does have a "first girlfriend."

Diana Taylor, the Long Island Power Authority's chief financial officer and *onetime Gov. Pataki aide*, is about to be thrust into the spotlight along with the new mayor-elect.

While the billionaire media mogul stumped for votes throughout the summer, *the 46-year-old* Taylor became a fixture on the campaign trail — in a quiet, supporting role for her once-divorced beau.

The soft-spoken, tall brunette with a bob cut and a thousand-watt smile started stumping with Bloomberg several weeks after he declared his candidacy in June.

Soon, she was accompanying him to everything from community meetings in Queens to Staten Island fairs — where the main course was sausage and onions — to Baptist churches in upper Manhattan.

Taylor declined to be interviewed.

But a friend said Taylor was thrilled by the campaign.

"She loved it — absolutely loved it," said the friend, who asked not to be identified. "It was great."

The friend said while Taylor was "ecstatic" when she heard Tuesday's vote tally, she was also hit with a "sense of dread" — because she knows Bloomberg is facing a tough job.

Bloomberg — who has two children with his ex-wife, Susan, and is the first bachelor mayor since Ed Koch — has been linked to Diana Ross and actress Marisa Berenson.

But he's been branded the thinking-woman's beau after dating a string of *smart, age-appropriate* women, including Mary Jane Salk, widow of child psychologist Lee Salk.

Although 13 years his junior, Taylor fits the bill.

The pair met at a Citizens Budget Commission luncheon roughly a year ago, where Bloomberg was a featured speaker. The two were seated next to each other.

The couple soon attracted attention by attending a string of black-tie events together, including the annual White House Correspondents Dinner.

A Greenwich, Conn., native and the oldest of three kids, Taylor graduated from Dartmouth in 1977, in just the second class to admit women.

After earning a degree in economics, *Taylor* moved to New York and, within a few years, went to business school to earn an MBA.

In 1988, Taylor, who's divorced, and four others launched a minority-and-women-owned securities firm call M.R. Beal.

She eventually left and went to work for Gov. Pataki for three years as an assistant secretary, focusing on energy and environmental policy.

She then jumped to KeySpan, as the vice president in charge of governmental and regulatory affairs. She joined LIPA last February, *and took time off during* the campaign.

Taylor's friend said the couple has tried to find time to relax since the campaign hit full stride — but it's been hard.

"They play golf," the friend said, adding that Taylor only took up the game when she met Bloomberg.

CITY_21MC100_013367745

NYC-WTC_000416501