

# GIULIANI: LET'S TEACH KIDS SIX DAYS A WEEK

Mayor Giuliani yesterday suggested opening schools on weekends, as he delivered a final State of the City speech filled with conciliatory gestures and projects designed to enhance his legacy.

Speaking for 108 minutes before a standing-room audience in the City Council chamber, Giuliani proposed something for just about everyone: a new opera house at Lincoln Center, a Brooklyn Dodgers hall of fame in Coney Island, a pool and skating rink in Queens, and a military academy in The Bronx operated by the Board of Education and the Defense Department.

"This is going to be a wonderful year," proclaimed Giuliani, eight months after prostate cancer and a ruptured marriage led him to withdraw from the U.S. Senate race.

"We're going to turn the city over better, not worse, than when we found it."

The only evidence of the mayor's fateful year was the sweat pouring from his brow — caused by hormones he's

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taking for his cancer — and the presence of gal pal Judith Nathan, who sat in a second-row seat, two rows in front of Raoul Felder, Giuliani's divorce lawyer.

Giuliani's well-honed reputation for confrontation, a trademark of his first seven years, was nowhere to be found.

"I don't believe I accomplish anything on my own," Giuliani declared at one

## Strikes conciliatory tone in last State of City speech

point, the first time he's uttered those words. "I need your help."

Public Advocate Mark Green, one of Giuliani's most persistent critics, described the mayor's tone as "happy" and "conciliatory."

"The mayor gave me the impression of being a tax-and-spend conservative. He's spending a lot of next year's budget," added Green, a Democrat who'll run for mayor this year.

Much of that spending was directed at the Board of Ed, which the mayor had once described as a financial

sinkhole.

Giuliani proposed opening classrooms on Saturdays and Sundays for about 100,000 students who need help in science and English. It would be the first wide-scale instruction offered on weekends in the public schools. The price was put at \$34 million.

The mayor also said he would accelerate spending of about \$360 million to put up 12 new school buildings as quickly as possible.

Although one-third of last year's summer-school students failed to appear, Giu-

liani said he wants to expand the program by 50,000 more slots.

To rid classrooms of disruptive students, the mayor endorsed opening "suspension centers" to segregate 45,000 such kids in special classes.

But the biggest surprise was Giuliani's announcement that he wants to open an academy in The Bronx to prepare students for military service.

"I don't think we've done enough for The Bronx," Giuliani said, explaining the location.

And making good on an idea advanced last year, Giuliani said he had a "deal" with board President Bill Thompson to sell 110 Livingston St. and replace it with a new school headquarters that would also include a "high standards" high school.

Schools Chancellor Harold Levy, sitting in the front row with the mayor's top aides, praised Giuliani's "very, very strong, good initiatives."

"A lot of what the mayor said is enormously empowering to the school system," Levy said.

Teachers union President Randi Weingarten, who has often been at odds with the administration, called the mayor's proposals "wonderful," even if they didn't include any mention of smaller class size or teacher recruitment.

"The tone is very different and I'm appreciative," she said.

As he has every year since 1995, Giuliani once again called for the abolition of the board and said his "greatest disappointment" in office has been his failure to push through vouchers to help "poor" parents.

"I believe this is a major civil-rights issue," Giuliani said. "I'll continue to fight for it, and fight for it as hard as I can."

The mayor was greeted by a two-minute standing ovation from an audience that included many of his current and former aides, as well as Sen. Chuck Schumer.

There was little controversy in most of the mayor's feel-good, do-good proposals.

Using slides to illustrate his points, Giuliani reeled off one planned enhancement after another: 2,000 defibrillators placed in buildings around the city to help heart-attack victims; a first-time NYPD survey of citizens by an independent consultant to "find out what people want from the Police Department," and a proposal for a resort hotel in Coney Island.

"I'm serious," said Giuliani, aware of how strange that idea sounded.

Giuliani didn't get a chance to mention several initiatives provided in an outline earlier to reporters.

At 8 p.m., while some of his guests were still circling a dinner buffet in the City Hall rotunda, Giuliani and Nathan walked out of the building together and left in the mayor's waiting vehicle.

## From crime to housing, a little bit of everything

Highlights from Mayor Giuliani's State of the City speech:

### CRIME

- Add 600 cops to search for people with outstanding warrants.
- Launch targeted effort to reduce property crimes.
- Improve emergency response times by creating a "311" number for New Yorkers to call for non-emergency help.
- Put surveillance cameras in five more housing developments.

### EDUCATION

- Hold special classes in science and English in schools that would be open on Saturday or Sunday.
- Expand summer school to add 50,000 more students and begin immediate construction of 12 new school buildings.
- Sell Board of Ed headquarters at 110 Livingston St. and move to a new building in downtown Brooklyn.
- Open "suspension centers" in schools.
- Continue to fight for



**ON THE BLOCK:** Ed Board member Jerry Camaratta posts a "for sale" sign at the board's 110 Livingston St. headquarters in Brooklyn. The mayor wants to move the board to new quarters.

N.Y. Post: Bolivar Arellano

vouchers, though he put forward no specific plan.

■ Construct a top-flight high school military academy in The Bronx.

### HEALTH

■ Offer bonuses of up to \$50,000 to schools if they enroll more kids in the city's program to provide health insurance to the poor.

### WELFARE

■ Reach out to almost 50,000 New Yorkers who are in the final year of the five-year federal welfare limit to make sure they can find jobs before their benefits run out.

### HOUSING

■ Major \$1.2 billion public-private initiative to create or preserve 10,100 housing units.

■ Revamp the building

code, overhaul the Buildings Department and have the Fire Department take over inspections, rezone vacant manufacturing land for commercial and residential use, and trim the number of "red tape" reviews for housing plans.

### OTHER:

■ Speed up by six months, to July 4, the closing of Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island.

■ Break ground on East River Park in Manhattan, which he proposed naming after former Mayor John Lindsay, who recently died.

■ File a letter of intent with the British Airports Authority to operate Kennedy and La Guardia airports, although the Port Authority's lease continues until at least 2015.

Gregg Birnbaum