

Stetter Johnson Announces

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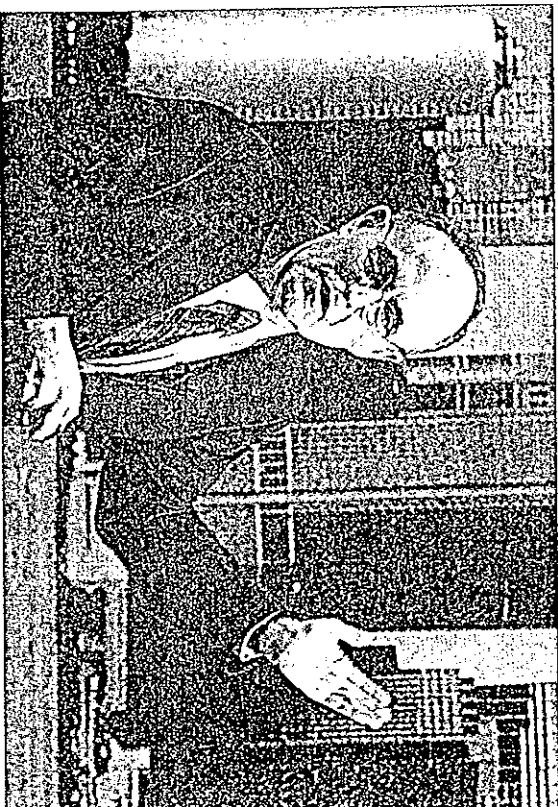
Rudy strives to leave the city with a vision

■ Mayor's final State of the City address focuses on education, public safety and economic development, including the renovation of the St. George Theater

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In his final State of the City address, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani boasted about his accomplishments and glanced at his failures while setting an agenda for the future of the city to include a range of education, public-safety and economic proposals he hopes to push forward in the last year of his administration.

In his almost two-hour address in City Hall, the mayor also focused on economic development throughout the five boroughs. In-



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Mayor Rudolph Giuliani delivers his State of the City address in front of a backdrop showing the skyline of Lower Manhattan.

cluding the renovation of the St. George Theater, surprising local politicians who were eager to glean the mayor's support in preserving the historic structure.

On the theme of revitalizing St. George, he talked about his vision of summer concerts at the soon-to-be-completed Richmond County Bank Ballpark.

"Wouldn't it be great to see the Three Tenors there?" he asked.

Acknowledging his failure to abolish the Board of Education as one of his bigger regrets, Giuliani nevertheless presented several improvements to advance educa-

tion within what he considers a flawed system.

The mayor proposed opening schools on weekends for extra instruction in math and science, and also in English, to improve bilingual education options.

Using an image of the distressed athletic field of Port Richmond High School, the mayor urged the expansion of the Take the Field program, which will provide matching funds to repair all 52 public high school fields.

Borough President Guy V. Molinari allocated \$500,000 to repair Port Richmond's fields, calling Take the Field an "irresistible" program.

"This will make it work and without the matching funds we don't know if it would work," Molinari said after the speech.

Giuliani advocated putting libraries in all 21,000 kindergarten-through-eighth-grade classrooms, and the moving ahead with plans to sell the Board of Education building at 110 Livingston St. in order to force the board to reduce its bureaucracy.

He is also seeking to increase summer-school enrollment by 50,000, to convert the 114 remaining coal-burning boilers in schools to gas or electric by next September and to add 800 additional school-safety officers and 400 more crossing guards. In-school suspension centers would be created for students involved in minor infrac-

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— Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
on his belief that the Board of Education
needs further reforms

tions and three Second Opportunity Schools would be established for more serious problems to ensure no student misses classroom time.

"I believe our city is failing our children in a very, very fundamental way," he said. "New York City's system used to be the ladder out of poverty. We need to revise the system and when I say we should blow it up or whatever, what I am trying to say is we're hurting our kids."

Jerry Cammarata, the borough's representative on the Board of Ed, said the mayor is making the city a formidable learning center for all its students.

"Certainly this mayor will go down as the hero of our children," he said. "He has gotten rid of the central Board of Education bureaucracy in one of the most unique and creative ways by dramatically getting rid of the physical structure. I have never been more thrilled to be part of a process that will, literally, put me out of work."