

S.I. Schools Rep

Cammarata to Head City Youth Agency

Jerry Cammarata, the Staten Island representative on the Board of Education who has consistently voted with Mayor Giuliani's appointees to the board, was chosen June 15 as the city's Commissioner for Youth and Community Development.

Mr. Cammarata stepped into a position that had been filled on an acting basis for the past 15 months by Violet Mitchell.

Induction Pledges

He said he would focus on serving more students through the department's after-school programs and pledged "the highest in accountability, particularly in contracts and in programming."

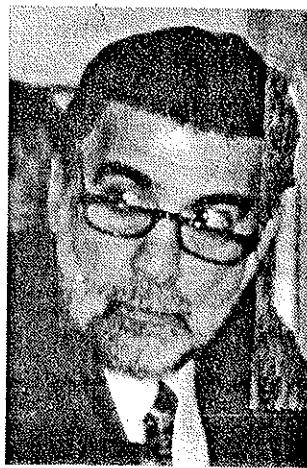
Joining the opinionated-to-the-point-of-eccentric Mr. Cammarata at the City Hall ceremony was his political patron, Staten Island Borough President Guy V. Molinari.

"I appreciate the advice he so freely gives me," Mr. Cammarata said, drawing laughter from friends and family members. "And Rudy, too, I've been to Gracie Mansion."

That last remark, which drew a knowing roar from the audience, was an allusion to an incident five years ago, shortly after Mr. Cammarata's appointment to the Board of Ed., when he briefly bucked the Giuliani administration in a battle over who would succeed Ramon C. Cortines as Schools Chancellor.

The story goes that Mr. Cammarata was picked up at his house and driven to Gracie Mansion, where intense pressure was placed on him to change his vote. He later explained that while he knew the shift would provoke temporary criticism in the press, if he stuck to his original position "the Mayor will be after me forever."

Questions were posed about whether being be-



The Chief-Leader/Gary Fabiano
JERRY CAMMARATA:
Welcomes bosses' advice.

holden to the Mayor for his new \$133,000-a-year job would compromise his independence at the Board of Ed. Mr. Giuliani noted, however, that one of his two appointees to the board, Ninfa Segarra, until recently also served as a Deputy Mayor.

'No Conflict'

"This appointment was cleared by the Conflict of Interest Board," the Mayor noted. "Jerry and I have had a close working relationship anyway."

The Mayor noted that he has expanded the Beacon School program, which began under David N. Dinkins, from 30 to 71 participating schools since taking office. He was noncommittal about Mr. Cammarata's pledge to increase the program's scope, saying he was willing to do so if a need was demonstrated.

"Jerry has spent his entire life working to improve children," the Mayor said of Mr. Cammarata, who is an adjunct instructor at Wagner College in Staten Island and heads the city branch of the New York State School Boards Association. R.S.