

Bloomberg Deputy Goes to LP

Dec. 6, 2007

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NEW YORK — Mayor Michael Bloomberg's trusted, hard-bargaining development official known for reshaping the city's landscape is leaving to become the No. 2 person at the mayor's financial information company.

Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff has been sitting a few feet away from the mayor at City Hall since the businessman took office in 2002. His task was to oversee economic development and rebuilding, and he did it in a way that has evoked comparisons to the city's famous "master builder" of the 20th century, Robert Moses.

Doctoroff's transition to Bloomberg LP, where Chairman Peter Grauer said he will have the title of president, comes at a time when the mayor has been facing increasing scrutiny over how closely he is involved with the company that he left in 2001 for his first mayoral run.

Bloomberg, who retains a 68 percent stake in the company, has maintained throughout his two terms that he has not had a hand in daily operations there.

A recent federal discrimination lawsuit filed against Bloomberg LP by three female employees alleged that a culture of punishing pregnant women and new mothers could be traced to Bloomberg himself, and claimed he is more involved than he lets on.

The company has denied the accusations; the suit is pending in court.

When the complaint was filed in September, Bloomberg first said he knew nothing about it and hadn't worked at the company "in an awful long time." He later acknowledged he keeps in regular contact with senior management and is entitled to do so because the city's Conflicts of Interest Board gave him permission when he took office.

On Thursday, Doctoroff described his job change as a mere shift within the "Bloomberg family."

"The mayor's not involved in the operations of the company today but it bears his imprint, it has his personality, it has his drive, it has his vision, it has his quest for excellence," Doctoroff said.

Though Bloomberg considered selling the company last year, the billionaire reiterated Thursday that the company he founded in the early 1980s "is not for sale."

The ties between Bloomberg LP and City Hall are only likely to tighten after Doctoroff leaves. He said he plans to remain involved in a number of projects that began under his leadership.

Those include the development of Hudson Yards, a forlorn swath of Manhattan's far West Side, and the western Queens waterfront as well as elements of Bloomberg's sustainability plan known as PlaNYC.

Doctoroff was largely responsible for the wide-ranging environmental program, which was unveiled last spring and includes Bloomberg's scheme to charge automobile tolls in congested parts of Manhattan.

The deputy mayor, a former investment banker who earned \$1 a year like his billionaire boss, was also instrumental in negotiations surrounding the new Yankee and Mets stadiums and the land occupied by the city's major airports.

And he is credited with pushing 78 new re-zonings throughout the city that cover more than 6,000 blocks and 60 miles of reclaimed waterfront that had sat neglected for years.

Doctoroff was the city's point person on the World Trade Center site redevelopment, serving as the mayor's liaison and then as a board member at the rebuilding agency in charge of the plans.

He was deeply involved in contentious lease negotiations that ultimately divided buildings rights at the site between the site's owners and developer Larry Silverstein, and worked to give the city greater power over the state-owned site.

In all of his ventures, he was notoriously tough. But that take-no-prisoners attitude did not charm everyone, and Doctoroff suffered defeats.

He was also the architect of the city's bid to host the 2012 Summer Olympics, which failed.

A major element of the Olympic plan _ building a football stadium and conference center on Manhattan's far West Side _ was blocked by lawmakers in Albany.

"You can't deal with real estate developers unless you're smart, tough and have stamina," said Mitchell Moss, a New York University urban planning professor who occasionally advises the Bloomberg administration. "The city had someone who understood finances and could bargain effectively _ this is not a job for someone who's shy."

Bloomberg, who has two years left in office, said his administration has begun the process to replace Doctoroff.

The mayor's office plans to seek an opinion from the Conflicts of Interest Board on Doctoroff's continuing role in city projects. Municipal employees are barred from lobbying the city for one year after leaving their government jobs.