

# NEW YORK POST

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## Rx for the 'New Rudy'

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**P**OLITICIANS rarely get a chance to start over, to do what they should have done from the start of their term. Now that Mayor Giuliani has acknowledged previous "mistakes" and proclaimed a desire to be a "better person," he faces a new challenge: How to build upon his success in reducing crime and shaping the city's economic resurgence during the limited time he has left in City Hall.

The mayor needs to pursue both short- and long-term goals that should include:

1. **Make peace with David Dinkins**, the city's first African-American mayor, who governed with a police force reduced to 27,000 during the city's fiscal crisis and an economy in free-fall. If John McCain can visit Vietnam, Rudy Giuliani should be able to recognize Dinkins' historic role in New York City.

2. **Expand the influence of African-Americans and Latinos** in the day-to-day life of his government. The mayor should strengthen the new generation of minority leaders, such as Assemblyman Roberto Ramirez, City Councilman Adolpho Carreone, Board of Education President William Thompson, and Rep. Gregory Meeks.

3. **Give all New Yorkers easy access to City Hall.** Rather than restrict access, the mayor should make it simple for

all New Yorkers to enter the hub of municipal government. Moreover, he should make the restored park and plaza a center of cultural activity: Why not have outdoor concerts in City Hall Park and Plaza during the early summer evenings?

4. **Work with Harold Levy**, the new chancellor of the Board of Education. The school system will need thousands of new teachers in the coming years; the mayor should help Levy in his efforts to simplify the bureaucratic hurdles that make it a

River Park. A subway link to the West Side would do more to generate economic development than any other mass-transit investment in the city.

7. **Get the city's pro sports teams to donate to public-school athletic programs.** The teams benefit from being in the city; let them share some of their revenue. Despite all the hype about computers in the classroom, athletic programs and sports facilities are just as important if we want to give kids a stake in their schools. According

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nightmare to get a teacher's license in New York City.

5. **Stimulate private investment in housing** on the East River and in the Rockaways. The city is experiencing high rates of job creation, but we are not keeping up with the demand for middle-income housing. We must expand the supply of housing, especially along the East River, from Red Hook to Astoria. This will require new land-use and environmental policies that foster housing on waterfront sites across from Manhattan that were previously used for maritime and industrial uses.

6. **Develop a plan for extending the IRT #7 line** to the Hudson River. The city needs a mass-transit link that will open up access to Manhattan's West Side and to the new Hudson

to gothamgazette.com. New York City spends less than \$14 per student for sports and physical education. Suburban and parochial school systems recognize that sports are a vital way to motivate kids to stay actively involved in school.

8. **Raise public librarians' pay.** The endangered species of New York, the libraries are the gateway to the information society for families without Internet access, for kids who have nowhere else to do their homework and for immigrants trying to find their way in a new nation. Yet we are losing our librarians because we refuse to pay a competitive salary to these quiet, under-appreciated workers.

9. **Turn "Crosswalks,"** the city cable channel, into a local C-SPAN, with live trans-

mission of governmental activities, such as administrative hearings, City Council meetings and press conferences. Lots of people care about what goes on in city government, but can't afford the to hire a lobbyist or spend time hanging around City Hall. If we really want to improve the council, nothing can match the effectiveness of live television.

Rudy Giuliani has orchestrated a remarkable turnaround in the economic life of this city. Nothing can diminish his historic role as the mayor who made New York the safest big city in the nation. But in a city of 7.5 million, there's always more to do; the challenge for Mayor Giuliani is to focus his energy on the priorities that will outlast his own term of office.

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