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**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2017 8:04 PM  
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**Subject:** **NY's dry-cleaner legislator DiPietro can lead the way in cleaning up Albany -- &, simultaneously, expose the hoax that "full-time" legislators are unconflicted, devoted public servants, unlike "part-time" legislators**

**Attachments:** [10-24-16-email.pdf](#)

**TO: Christine Gierlinger/Chief of Staff to Assemblyman David DiPietro**

Following up our lengthy phone conversation this morning, for which I thank you, here's the item I received as part of this morning's e-mail news summary from Politico :

**"THE CASE FOR A VOLUNTEER LEGISLATURE, by POLITICO New York's Bill Mahoney:** While an increasing number of legislators have publicly embraced proposals to give themselves pay raises in recent months, one lawmaker thinks their salary should be \$0. Assemblyman David DiPietro introduced a constitutional amendment on Tuesday that would define legislating as a part-time occupation. Members would be classified as volunteers who aren't be paid anything beyond travel expenses and per diems for the days they spend in Albany. 'People seem to forget that only a few short years ago, we worked until April 1,' said DiPietro, who argued that modern sessions typically drag on through June in order to justify higher salaries. 'Now \$80,000 isn't enough for the New York City members. The whole pay raise issue - that's why there's this whole fight in Albany right now, it's World War III.' [Read more here.](#)"

As I am not a subscriber of Politico, I cannot furnish you with the article – but surely Mr. Mahoney – who I am cc'ing -- would furnish it to the Assemblyman. I would appreciate if you would then send it on to me so that I might read it, as well. Also, I would appreciate a copy of Assemblyman DiPietro's proposed constitutional amendment – and any supporting memorandum, etc.

Upon reading the item, I was immediately reminded of Assemblyman Nojay's powerful, candid testimony about legislative pay, actual legislative days, and the value of "part-time" legislators having other, outside employment, which he presented at the March 23, 2016 hearing of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial

and Executive Compensation in Albany. The video of the March 23, 2016 hearing – at which Assemblyman Nojay was the first witness – is accessible from the Commission’s website here: <http://nyscommissiononcompensation.org/hearings-legislative.shtml>. The transcript is also posted: <http://nyscommissiononcompensation.org/pdf/CompensationCommission032316%203.pdf> – (see pp. 2-10).

Based on the quote from Assemblyman DiPietro in the above Politico item, he clearly shares important views about the Legislature held by Assemblyman Nojay. You confirmed as much, further stating that Assemblyman Nojay was one of Assemblyman DiPietro’s closest friends. Obvious, too, is that Assemblyman Nojay’s reference at the March 23, 2016 hearing to “A legislator immediately adjacent to [my district] owns three dry cleaning stores” (at p. 5, see also p. 12) was to Assemblyman DiPietro.

As discussed, I was very impressed by Assemblyman Nojay and, for that reason, reached out to him on several occasions. I was also influenced by him. My assertion -- at the Legislature’s January 30, 2017 budget hearing on “Local Government Officials/General Government” – that the Legislature needs to sever the statutory link between district attorney salaries – and judicial salaries – has its genesis in a quote from Assemblyman Nojay in an April 14, 2016 article in the online Daily News, <http://www.thedailynewsonline.com/lcn01/livingston-county-supervisors-seek-support-for-budget-amendment-to-pay-da-salary-increase-20160414>, by his mention of “repeal”.

I respectfully request that Assemblyman DiPietro view the VIDEO of my January 30<sup>th</sup> testimony, as well as the VIDEO of my January 31<sup>st</sup> testimony at the Legislature’s budget hearing on “Public Protection”. As I showed you, both are posted on CJA’s website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), accessible *via* the prominent homepage link: “2017 Legislative Session”. For your convenience, here is the direct link to CJA’s webpage posting the VIDEOS and evidence in support of my testimony: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/budget-hearings.htm>.

As discussed, the VIDEOS of my January 30<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> testimony – and the evidence supporting it - - present Assemblyman DiPietro with a stellar opportunity to demonstrate the fearless leadership that a dry cleaner can bring to the Legislature. Indeed, based on my testimony, he can easily put to the test his many fellow legislators who, having no employment or earned income outside the Legislature, label themselves “full time” and posture themselves as unconflicted and pure, in contrast to such supposed “part-timers” as he. To do this, Assemblyman DePietro need only take to the Assembly floor or hold a press conference and call upon his “full time” colleagues to deny or dispute the accuracy of my January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> testimony -- especially “full-time” lawyer-legislators who have no outside earned income – as, for instance, my own assemblyman, David Buchwald – a Princeton undergraduate and Harvard Law School graduate, who is a member of BOTH the Assembly’s Judiciary Committee and its Committee on Governmental Operations.

Indeed, it would be a great public service if Assembly DiPietro would not only “throw down the gauntlet” to lawyer-legislators who do not practice law on the outside, such as Assemblyman Buchwald, but also to lawyer-legislators who do. Let both be challenged to come forward with their findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the ten causes of action of the citizen-taxpayer action to which I repeatedly referred in testifying. A prime example of a lawyer-legislator who has a private law practice is Assemblyman Phil Steck – a Harvard undergraduate, University of Pennsylvania Law School graduate, and the ONLY legislator, apart from Assemblyman Nojay, to testify before the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation – also at the March 23, 2016 hearing. Like Assemblyman Buchwald, Assemblyman Steck is also a member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Suffice to say that BOTH Assemblyman Buchwald and Assemblyman Steck have long had knowledge of the ten causes of action of the citizen-taxpayer action, of the citizen-taxpayer action that preceded it, and of the evidentiary significance of their nonfeasance with respect to each. As illustrative, attached is my October 24, 2016 e-mail to Albany Times Union state editor Casey Seiler – to which they were indicated recipients. Entitled “Challenging NYS’ Re-Election-Seeking Legislators -- & Examining Whether ‘Outside Income’ Affects Legislative Performance, Starting with Lawyer-Legislators Steck & Buchwald & Newbie Legislator Bichotte”, the e-mail stated, in pertinent part:

“Please note that Assemblyman Buchwald is a graduate of HARVARD LAW SCHOOL and of HARVARD’S KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT. I do not believe he earns any outside income as a lawyer – unlike lawyer-legislator Steck whose earning of outside income your article notes. The question of limits on outside income was one of your survey questions. Instead of blithely accepting and perpetuating the self-serving platitudes of your always-the-same roster of ‘good government groups’ that legislative corruption is rooted in outside income, shouldn’t the Times-Union do an investigative examination, based on evidence, into whether, in fact, outside income makes any difference to the on-the-job performance of New York’s legislators. Certainly, had the Commission’s October 18<sup>th</sup> hearing not been cancelled, I would have testified, with a mountain of evidentiary proof, that it is A BOGUS ISSUE: New York’s ‘full-time’ legislators with NO OUTSIDE INCOME, are just as corrupt as its ‘part-time’ legislators – and the verified pleadings in CJA’s two citizen-taxpayer actions and in our 2012 declaratory judgment action, CJA v. Cuomo, et al – ALL THREE NAMING THE LEGISLATURE AS DEFENDANTS -- furnish a mountain of readily-verifiable particulars and proof.

By copy of this e-mail to ‘full-time’ Assemblyman Buchwald and to ‘part-time’ Assemblyman Steck – both seeking re-election – let them come forward with their findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to these three ground-breaking lawsuits. Better still, let them explain why each of them took no steps to secure legislative oversight of what’s been unfolding these many years with respect to the pay raises – and the slush-fund judiciary/legislative budgets of which they have had repeated notice and proof.” (capitalization and underlining in the original).

Inasmuch as you mentioned the courage of lawyer James Ostrowki – and that he is part of Assemblyman DePietro’s circle – I would greatly appreciate if you would forward this e-mail to Mr. Ostrowski, with whom I was in contact nearly five years ago. Surely he would confirm for the Assemblyman the significance and posture of each of the ten causes of action of the citizen-taxpayer action.

The People of New York are desperately in need of legislative leadership. The September 2, 2016 verified complaint in the citizen-taxpayer action chronicles this, resoundingly – and the proof, since then – and since my January 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> testimony -- is posted on CJA’s webpages of the “2017 Legislative Session”. It would be a fitting tribute to Assemblyman Nojay for this legislative leadership to come from his friend, Assemblyman DiPietro.

I would be pleased to assist Assemblyman DePietro to the max. Likewise, his hardworking, skeletal staff and patriotic citizen activists, such as Mr. Ostrowski, who are part of his circle.

Meantime, I am cc'ing all recipients of my attached October 24, 2016 e-mail, as well as Politico's below indicated reporters interested in "tip(s)", "Feedback", and "News to share" -- to help get the ball rolling.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Azi Paybarah and Jimmy Vielkind [<mailto:newyorkplaybook@politico.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2017 7:18 AM

**To:** [elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)

**Subject:** POLITICO New York Playbook, presented by the New York State Association of REALTORS®: THE DISTANCE BETWEEN Cuomo and de Blasio — PROPOSAL: Pay legislators \$0 — UNIONIZING at Vice

03/03/2017 07:15 AM EDT

**By Jimmy Vielkind in Albany and Azi Paybarah in Manhattan, with Addy Baird and Daniel Lippman**

**DUEL EXPORT:** The top two Democrats from the Empire State are in Florida and Illinois this morning - and while the distance between Gov. Andrew Cuomo and NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio is physically larger than usual, it's perfectly in line with their dueling views of where the Democratic Party should be. Cuomo is in Hollywood, FL to speak to leaders of New York's construction trade unions, who are gathering for a meeting there. NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio will talk to a civic group in Chicago, where crime rates have been an obsession for President Donald Trump.

**Cuomo and de Blasio are talking to two different crowds but are also sending messages to one another.** With his speech, Cuomo is taking an early drive on the 2020 circuit, and further embracing the construction trade crowd, emphasizing his reputation as a builder and a non-ideological public servant who makes jobs and big development projects really happen. This stands in contrast with de Blasio's strategy, which is to be both the loudest progressive voice in any room he occupies, while encouraging others to step inside. In Chicago, de Blasio is expected to tout the record-low crime reductions happening in his city. He's expected to make the case that his achievements came from enacting policies that run diametrically opposed to Trump's stated immigration and public safety goals.

**GOOD MORNING. TGIF. Good luck with [National Unplugging Day](#) - Got a tip?**

**Feedback? News to share? Let us know. By email:**

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**WHERE'S ANDREW?** In Florida, giving a speech to the Building Trades Council of Greater New York.

**WHERE'S BILL?** In Illinois, to talk to the City Club of Chicago, before trips to Florida and California.

**TABS - Daily News:** "WELL, RECUUSE ME! Sessions: I'll step aside from probe of Trump campaign ties to Russia" - Post: "SON OF 'VICE': Spurned wife suit: veep kid's wild life of drugs, hookers" - [SEE THEM](#)

- **Newsday:** "MS-13 GANG MEMBERS: INDICTED IN GIRLS' MURDERS" - **El Diario** [translated]: 'Not in my neighborhood! The construction of new homeless shelters in the Bronx and Brooklyn; Neighbors in Queens say the area is saturated' - [SEE THEM](#)

**FREEBIES - amNY:** "AG: I'LL STAY OUT OF RUSSIA PROBE" -- **Metro:** "'A DAY WITHOUT WOMEN'" - [SEE THEM](#)

**BROADSHEETS - NYT,** 2-col., above the fold: Sessions Recuses Himself From Russia Investigation" - **WSJ,** 5-col., above the fold: "Sessions Step Back From Probes" - [SEE THEM](#)

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "I think he's gone from insurgent to incumbent." - **Councilman Jumaane Williams,** on de Blasio, [via WSJ.](#)

**\*\* A message from the New York State Association of REALTORS®:** Becoming a homeowner in New York is harder than ever. Help create an opportunity for first-time homebuyers by asking your Representative to support NY First Home. **NY First Home** is a real plan for real help. Visit [NYFirstHome.com](#) to learn more. \*\*

#### **WHAT ALBANY IS READING:**

-- **HIDING THE BILL, by Jimmy:** Officials at SUNY Polytechnic Institute are refusing to say what its affiliates spent on lawyers related to the corruption probe that ensnared its founding president, Alain Kaloyeros. POLITICO has sought information about the legal bills - some of which are currently the subject of a lawsuit filed by Kaloyeros - since two of the high-tech school's real estate arms [met last week.](#) Those entities - the Fuller Road Management Corporation and Fort Schuyler Management Corporation - oversaw the development of facilities in Buffalo, Syracuse and Albany that led to [bid-rigging charges](#) against Kaloyeros and executives at three construction companies. ... Jason Conwall from ESD and Steve Ference of SUNY Poly did not reply to inquiries; only the consultant, Morgan Hook of SKDKnickerbocker, responded to suggest that POLITICO send a Freedom of Information Law request to SUNY Poly's FOIL officer. POLITICO replied that it had done so in December, but information about FSMC and FRMC was excluded from the response. POLITICO also noted that both FSMC or FRMC say they are not covered by New York's Freedom of Information Law. [Read more here.](#)

**-- THE CASE FOR A VOLUNTEER LEGISLATURE, by POLITICO New York's Bill Mahoney:** While an increasing number of legislators have publicly embraced proposals to give themselves pay raises in recent months, one

lawmaker thinks their salary should be \$0. Assemblyman David DiPietro introduced a constitutional amendment on Tuesday that would define legislating as a part-time occupation. Members would be classified as volunteers who aren't be paid anything beyond travel expenses and per diems for the days they spend in Albany."People seem to forget that only a few short years ago, we worked until April 1," said DiPietro, who argued that modern sessions typically drag on through June in order to justify higher salaries. "Now \$80,000 isn't enough for the New York City members. The whole pay raise issue - that's why there's this whole fight in Albany right now, it's World War III." [Read more here.](#)

-- **POLICE MISS DEADLINE FOR RAPE KIT COUNT, by Gannett's Jon Campbell:** "More than half of New York's police agencies and prosecutors missed a mid-February deadline to report the number of untested sexual assault evidence kits to the state, hamstringing a state report meant to tally the full total. The state Division of Criminal Justice Services issued a report Wednesday that counted at least 1,622 rape kits across the state that had not yet been sent to a laboratory for testing. The report, which was required by law, captured just a fraction of the total: Only 265 of 586 police and prosecutorial agencies across the state submitted their results on time. Among some of those that missed a Feb. 17 deadline were some of the biggest police agencies in the state, including the New York City, Buffalo and Yonkers police departments. But there were also lots of smaller ones, including the Irondequoit and East Rochester police departments and numerous departments in the counties surrounding Monroe." [Read more here.](#)

#### **WHAT CITY HALL IS READING:**

-- **TRUMP HAUNTS DE BLASIO'S BUDGET: Details are elusive, by POLITICO New York's Laura Nahmias:** Mayor Bill de Blasio's budget director took questions for nearly three hours at City Hall Thursday while managing to deliver almost no specific answers on the mayor's preliminary budget proposal. ... As the City Council Finance Committee put it in the opening lines of its review of the mayor's preliminary budget: "The ambiguity around the future actions of the Federal government, and subsequent impacts on the City's budget...creates uncertainty that makes budgeting as usual a nearly impossible task." ... But if City Council members or any member of the public hoped to get a sense of how de Blasio's administration is actually preparing for potential funding cuts under the Trump administration, or planning to pay for new homeless shelters announced by the mayor earlier this week, they were sorely

disappointed Thursday. ... if the New York City Budget Department has a defined plan at this point for how it will deal with specific financial contingencies created by the Trump administration, officials aren't sharing it. "We will have to work together and make constant adjustments," Fuleihan said, vaguely, when Mark-Viverito asked if the city had the resources it needs to handle potential federal cuts. [Read more here.](#)

-- **TRAVELIN' MAN: "Five Boroughs? More Like Five Cities for Mayor de Blasio" - NYT's Jim Dwyer:** "If you're looking for Mayor Bill de Blasio, don't call City Hall. He leaves for Chicago on Friday morning, goes to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Saturday, then heads to Los Angeles on Sunday. Earlier this week, he was in Washington, and over last weekend, Atlanta. That makes five cities in eight days, as [Politico](#) pointed out. ... it might seem strange for a New York City politician to be asking people across the country for money, particularly because he is facing no major opposition and has [raised nearly more money than his nine opponents combined](#). ... Still, it is hard to imagine that an ambitious Democrat like Mr. de Blasio could resist the chance to jump into the bull market for political and liberal [fund-raising](#) set off by the election of President Trump. ... like the mythical ancient mariners whose maps of the world were said to be marked 'Here be dragons,' Mr. de Blasio and his allies are steering as if there really were beasts out there, waiting to swallow him. Apparently, the monsters are in the five boroughs." [Read more here.](#)

-- **DE BLASIO (SOFTLY) TOWERS OVER RIVALS - NBC 4 NY's Melissa Russo:** "Mayor de Blasio has enough support among Democrats to win a primary election outright, and would crush potential Republican opponents in a general election by more than 40 points, according to a new NBC 4 New York/Marist Poll. He would win those commanding victories, the poll found, despite just 39 percent of voters rating the mayor's performance as excellent or good. ... Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion [said] 'None of his potential Democratic challengers has double-digit support.'" [Read more here.](#)

**YOU'VE BEEN SERVED -- "Babu Ji to Close Amid Allegations Owner Threatened Employees Over Tipping Lawsuit," by Eater's Ryan Sutton:** "Babu Ji - the eclectic East Village Australian-Indian restaurant that became a darling of the food world with its spicy fare and inexpensive tasting menus- will reportedly close for an indefinite period as its owners face their second wage theft and overtime lawsuit since the restaurant opened two years ago... The first lawsuit against owners Jessi and Jennifer Singh was filed in July 2016 by two employees. By late September, the Singhs agreed to pay a total of \$95,000, split almost evenly between the employees and restaurant labor attorney Maimon Kirschenbaum. The owners did not admit any wrongdoing in the settlement, according to public court records.

"**The second wage lawsuit was filed in September 2016**, but an amended version from February 2017 contains newer, more incendiary allegations, accusing an owner of making profane and threatening remarks against a server and his family - including insinuations of violence in retaliation for bringing the wage suit. That owner is also accused of berating another server with an incest-laced profanity and threatening him with a countersuit. The case is set to be tried by a jury... Eater has learned that the defendants are due in court due on Tuesday in a development related to the original \$95,000 settlement. The Singhs declined to pay the final tranche of \$31,366,66 on that sum, which was due on 31 January; their lawyer stated in a February motion that the settlement was reached mistakenly and that it should therefore be vacated." [Read more here](#)

**MORNING MEDIA, with POLITICO's Joe Pompeo:**

-- **JEFF SESSIONS GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO CNN TO CLEAR THE AIR - Kidding!!!** He went on Tucker Carlson's Fox News show. Here's something he said that might be of interest to Morning Media readers: "We are having a lot of leaks today in Washington that I do believe are troubling. A lot of it would appear in violation of the law and it's an unhealthy trend. But we've got to do better about it. I do believe every department needs to take a greater interest in maintaining a proper security." [Full video](#)

-- **Colbert's opening monologue:** "Big news today out of the Kremlin. I'm sorry, I misread that, uh, White House. Here's the deal ya'll. You know how there's all this smoke, about the idea that Trump and his folks colluded with the Russians to influence the election, and the Trump [people] are saying, like, there's nothing to see here? Well I spy, with my little eye, the Attorney General of the United States." [Clip](#)

-- **VICE UNION DRIVE** - Lukas Alpert reports [in The Wall Street Journal](#): "Organized labor has begun a major push to unionize hundreds of writers, producers and on-air talent who work on Vice Media's video and television programming. Union sign-up cards have been circulated among approximately 450 Vice employees working on programs for the company's Viceland cable channel, its shows for HBO and online video for its websites and Verizon Communications Inc.'s go90 mobile video app, organizers said. Unions are looking to extend their success in organizing digital newsrooms, including at Vice Media's web properties, as media companies increasingly expand into video and television."

You can read the full Morning Media column and sign up to receive it in your inbox by clicking [here](#).

**REAL ESTATE, with POLITICO New York's Sally Goldenberg:**

-- **THROWING SHADE** - "A plan to rezone Midtown East could make the neighborhood 10% darker," by **Crain's Daniel Geiger**: "The rezoning plan the city is seeking for Midtown East could eventually make streets in the district 10% darker. That's because an obscure formula known as the Waldram diagram, which is used by developers to calculate how much daylight a new building will block out, is being relaxed as part of the rezoning, allowing for taller and bulkier spires in the neighborhood. According to Alex Duda, an architect who specializes in helping builders shape their plans to conform to the Waldram formula, the current equation would require the new, larger towers permitted by the rezoning to taper dramatically in order to block out less of the sky from the street below. But that type of design would discourage builders from raising new towers." [Read more here.](#)

-- **IN THE WORKS** - "BK landlord plans 95K sf resi building on Harlem's 125th St.," by **The Real Deal's Miriam Hall**: "Brooklyn landlord Haim Nortman is planning to construct a 94,540-square-foot residential building on West 125th Street in Harlem, according to a permit application filed with the city's Department of Buildings on Thursday. The 12-story, mixed-used building at 362 West 125th Street would feature 71 apartments across just over 73,000 square feet. There are also plans for 21,500 square feet of commercial space across the first two floors. Issac & Stern is the architect of record. Nortman, who owns nearby buildings at 220 West 149th Street and 2546 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, paid \$28.5 million for the property last year. The site is home to LaGree Baptist Church, which spans 11,890 square feet." [Read more.](#)

-- **WTC MOVES** - In an interview with the Commercial Observer's Terence Cullen, Silverstein's Janno Lieber talked about the recent news that Spotify is moving into 378,000 square feet at 4 World Trade Center, which is fully leased. He also discussed 2 Trade Center, which has had trouble luring committed



anchor tenants, 3 World Trade Center, which is still under construction and mostly up for lease, and Downtown Manhattan's real estate appeal. Lieber, a government veteran who worked in the Koch administration, said the Spotify deal has spurred more interest from others. "We are getting a lot more action. More calls, more tours. Even since the Spotify deal was announced there has been a notable uptick in discussion." [Read more.](#)

You can find the free version of Sally's real estate newsletter here: <http://politi.co/2a1DgJk>

**BIRTHDAYS: Yesterday: John Tritt**, outreach director for Pre-K For All (h/t Meg Fosque) ... **Nicholas Paolucci**, director of public affairs and press secretary at the NYC Law Department ...

-- **Friday: Freddi Goldstein**, deputy press secretary to Mayor De Blasio (h/t Eric Phillips) ... Hochul chief of staff **Jeff Lewis** ... **David Steinhardt**, co-founder and co-president of Clarity Capital, is 48 (h/ts Jewish Insider) ... **Maury Thompson**, a columnist for the Glens Falls Post-Star ... Pace Law School Dean **David Yassky**, himself a former member of the City Council ... **Warren Chan**, executive director of the Asian Community United Center ... **Anna Gustafson**, reporter formerly with the Queens Chronicle and Times Ledger ...

-- **Saturday: Jason Ortiz**, political director of the NY Hotel Trades Council ... Daily News Albany chief **Ken Lovett** ... Capital Tonight reporter **Nick Reisman** ... **Tiffany Raspberry**, president at York Group Associates, LLC ... and **Rick Perry**, whom [Bill Clinton once called](#) a "good-looking rascal" with a "crazy" platform ...

-- **Sunday:** political consultant **Erick Mullen** ... **Gregory Rose**, director of communications and legislative affairs for Councilman I. Daneek Miller ... **Anthony Manetta**, CEO & founder of Standard Advisors Group ... **Mike Nitzky**, communications director at StudentsFirstNY ...

**THE HOME TEAMS -- POLITICO New York's Howard Megdal:** At the Times-Union Center, the MAAC basketball tournaments, men's and women's, began. The Canisius women outlasted Niagara, 80-74, in OT. In the men's bracket, Canisius beat Marist 77-73 to advance.

- **Derrick Rose gave this endorsement** of his team's renewed commitment to the Triangle Offense: "S--t, do I have a choice? Do I have a choice?"

- **The day ahead:** more MAAC madness. The Knicks are obligated to be in Philly. The Nets are in Utah.

**Upstate America:** After 21 years, the owners of a [Kenmore candy shop](#) founded in 1968 plan to replace the old Condrell's Candies sign with a King Condrell's sign - the name on the menus.

**#PlanetNYC:** Councilman Chaim Deutsch of Brooklyn may face a primary challenge from ... his cousin ([last item](#)).

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**\*\* A message from the New York State Association of REALTORS®:** Homeownership rates remain at historic lows, while increasing costs make achieving the dream of owning a home more difficult than ever for many New Yorkers.

The NY First Home Program, S.4058-Litte/A.5616-Ramos, modeled after the State's 529 College Savings Program, has bi-partisan support and passed the State Senate unanimously last year. This savings program would help New Yorkers address several housing challenges including affordability and high closing costs.

That's why 84% of New Yorkers (Siena College Research) overwhelmingly support creating incentives such as NY First Home to help people save for their first home.

**If the legislation passes, New Yorkers could save up to \$5,000 (\$10,000 for couples) of after-tax dollars annually** in a special savings account to go toward a first home purchase.

**We urge state lawmakers to support S.4058-Litte/A.5616-Ramos and ask them to incorporate it into the 2017-18 New York State Budget.**

Visit [NYFirstHome.com](http://NYFirstHome.com) to learn more. \*\*

*To view online:*

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/new-york-playbook/2017/03/politico-new-york-playbook-the-distance-between-cuomo-and-de-blasio-proposal-pay-legislators-0-unionizing-at-vice-219025>

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