

DAILY NEWS

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Mayor's Rap-sody

He's honored in tribute - through hip hop!

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MAYOR MICHAEL Bloomberg, rap icon?

Proving again that politics makes for strange bedfellows, supporters of controversial Independence Party leader Lenora Fulani have written a rap song in honor of Bloomberg, dubbed "Mayor Mike's Rockin'."

The mayor is expected to hear the song tonight at Lincoln Center, where the All Stars Project - a charity co-founded by Fulani that provides after-school programs to city kids - is holding its annual gala.

"Who's running this city an' making it airtight?" says the chorus. "I can tell you that nobody cares like Mayor Mike."

Like Bloomberg, the event's invitees seem to defy political pigeonholing. They include Rep. Charles Rangel (D-Manhattan); Henry Louis Gates, the liberal Harvard professor of African-American studies, and Hunter Hunt, a Texas oilman and big-time supporter of President Bush. But the real political dance at the party will be between Fulani and Bloomberg.

Although Fulani has been dogged for years by allegations that she is anti-Semitic - which she vehemently denies - she also is the main power behind the Independence Party, whose

"Mayor Mike's Rockin'"

BY ALISTAIR (CHARLIE BIGGS) SEALY
and LENNY (MR. L) MOORE

Who's running the city an' making it airtight?
I can tell you that nobody cares like Mayor Mike
Make your own way, go against that grain
It takes an independent mind to wanna change this game ...
For people who thought he was keepin' his dough
Saved the Harlem Dance Theatre when it needed him most ...
The Board of Ed failed, that remains a true thing
Some are scared to change the way we do things
Mayor Mike is gettin' with the times
Leaders should be independently inclined

ballot line could prove crucial to Bloomberg in November.

In a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans, 5 to 1, Bloomberg needs to give Democratic swing voters a way to vote for him without pulling the Republican lever.

And that place will very likely be the Independence Party ballot line, where Bloomberg picked up 59,000 votes in 2001 - boosting him to victory.

The importance of Fulani in Bloomberg's political future was underscored last year when the mayor quietly contributed \$250,000 to the party.

Party strategists used the money to fund a phone bank to target some of the 800,000 city voters not registered with any major party.

In the past, Bloomberg has tried to distance himself from Fulani, saying he doesn't agree with everything she says. But such other mainstream candidates as Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer have accepted the Independence Party's line in recent years.

"Clearly they have made a judgment that it is more important to have the line and do it publicly than to back off of it," said Doug Muzzio, Baruch College political science professor.