

CELESTE KATZ

DAILY POLITICS

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Attorney: Bloomberg 'Dismissive', 'Disinterested' At Deposition

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Mayor Bloomberg was [deposed for the second](#) - and likely last - time today in connection with the class action lawsuit filed against his company, Bloomberg LP, in which more than 80 women [alleged the firm](#) is biased against pregnant women.

As [he did during the first deposition in May](#), the mayor avoided reporters by having his SUV drive directly into the garage at the Midtown office of Bloomberg LP's lawyers, Willkie Farr & Gallagher.

He spent 3-1/2 hours being questioned - about an hour less than last time - and departed.

Richard Roth, an attorney representing two of women who filed EEOC complaints against Bloomberg LP, emerged to speak to reporters. DN City Hall Bureau Chief Adam Lisberg provided the following excerpts:

"The deposition of Mayor Bloomberg in connection with the discrimination litigation against his company resumed and concluded today. The questioning dug deeper into Mr. Bloomberg's knowledge of and relationship with the company over the past several years."

"While I am unable to discuss the details of his testimony, I can tell you that, unlike the prior session, the mayor was dismissive and disinterested...I think that he believes that he has more important things to do than sit here in this deposition. That's my impression.

"...His demeanor was straightforward and somewhat calm. I just believe that at the end of the day, he was dismissive to the extent that he was not as interested in this as we would like him to have been."

Roth said attorneys "dug a little deeper" into the mayor's relationship with the company this time around, and were "not really surprised" about the answers they received. He did not disclose any further details.

The case is likely to last "far into 2010" (or well into the first year of Bloomberg's third term, assuming he wins this fall), Roth said, with a trial some time next spring or summer.

Lisberg noted the unfortunate (from Bloomberg's standpoint) juxtaposition of his deposition this morning and a [NOW-NY mayoral forum](#) being held this evening, which the mayor has declined to attend.

NOW-NYC President Sonia Ossorio said Bloomberg was indeed invited along with his Democratic opponents, Comptroller Bill Thompson and Councilman Tony Avella, but only Thompson and Avella accepted.

"It sounded like they really considered it, and declined," Ossorio told Libserg. "They said they get so many invitations...It's a real missed opportunity to talk to the women of New York, and there's a lot of organizations involved. ... I wish he was coming, because I think it would have been a lot more interesting and substantial."

On the day of his first deposition, Bloomberg [spoke at a New York Women's Foundation breakfast](#).