Today's News Roundup: Corruption Deja Vu

Posted on May 06, Posted by Cristian Salazar Category The Eye-Opener

A once powerful state senator is expected to be arrested as early as today in a corruption case that is sure to sharpen calls for political reform in Albany. An attorney for the politician, Brooklyn Democrat John L. Sampson, has not commented.

The Daily News reported over the weekend that the case involving Sampson is related to conversations that were secretly recorded by disgraced state Senator Shirley Huntley, who is being sentenced this week for stealing taxpayer money through a fake charity. Court papers disclosed on Friday in Huntley's case say she recorded conversations with seven elected officials and two other people.

The recordings, according to the court papers, "did yield evidence useful to law enforcement." The officials were not named in the papers.

In early April, two separate corruption investigations against sitting elected officials jolted the political establishment. In one of those cases, an assemblyman was wearing a wire to record his colleagues for over three years.

The arrests last month led to calls for reform to stem what appears to be a pervasive culture of corruption. Those calls have been met by proposals from good government groups, the political parties and Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Republican state Senators have scheduled a hearing tomorrow on the city's public campaign financing system, which some would-be reformers say could clamp down on corruption if extended statewide. The Senate GOP is against the idea.

Weekend Roundup

City plans call for expanding hurricane evacuation zones to encompass 640,000 more people. Republican mayoral hopeful and former Rudy Giuliani deputy major Lhota pays close attention to Staten Island. Democratic mayoral hopeful John Liu called the New York Police Department's surveillance of Muslims unconstitutional at a forum with other candidates. Cathie Black emails revealed.
Tammany Hall:
The game!

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State Dems Spend To Promote Cuomo-Supported Ideas (Wall Street Journal)

City DOE Could Launch E-Book Store For Schools (NY Post)

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