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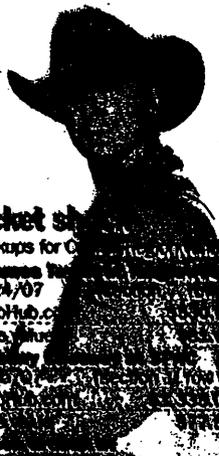
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# TIMES UNION

ALBANY, NEW YORK ■ SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2007

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**Ticket sheet**

Markups for Online Ticket Sales:

James L. Bruno at Times Union Center 8/24/07	Face Value	\$112.00
StubHub.com	Face Value	\$112.00
James L. Bruno at Times Union Center 7/28/07 (Section 3, row G)	Face Value	\$112.00
StubHub.com	Face Value	\$112.00
James L. Bruno at Times Union Center 7/28/07 (Section 3, row F)	Face Value	\$112.00
StubHub.com	Face Value	\$112.00
James L. Bruno at Times Union Center 8/30/07 (Section 1, row F)	Face Value	\$112.00
StubHub.com	Face Value	\$112.00
James L. Bruno at Times Union Center 8/30/07 (Section 1, row F)	Face Value	\$112.00
StubHub.com	Face Value	\$112.00

## State flies Bruno to fundraisers

Taxpayers finance trips of Senate majority leader to New York City political events

By JAMES M. ODATO  
Capitol bureau

ALBANY— Three times this year, Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno has used taxpayer-funded state aircraft to fly to political fundraisers in Manhattan while certifying he was on official state business, according

to documents obtained by the Times Union.

In addition to routinely using state helicopters to fly from Albany to New York City for years, almost weekly, Bruno has also received ground transportation downstate from State Police, even when traveling to fundraisers.

Bruno's staff claims he faces constant threats to his life and safety and is therefore provided security details.

This year, Bruno requested the state planes in writing for "legislative business meetings," and

[timesunion.com](http://timesunion.com)

Read aircraft requests, fundraiser invitations and other documents showing Sen. Joseph L. Bruno's use of state helicopters on <http://timesunion.com/>

signed, or had someone stamp his signature, on documents asserting that his use of state aircraft was for official business. The disclosure forms are required un-  
Please see [timesunion.com](http://timesunion.com/)



PANORAMA MONTAGE BY MICHAEL P. FANHELL/TIMES UNION

EXHIBIT  
Con. 85  
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## 's ice meltdown quickens

AD ▶ Scientists go green.

# BRUNO: Political trips of majority leader at issue

CONTINUED FROM A1  
for a new rule instituted by Gov. Spitzer.

According to flight documents and State Police Aviation Unit request forms obtained through a request under the Freedom of Information Law, Bruno and his top aides used the state air fleet 11 times in the first five months of the year compared with 19 flights by Spitzer during the same period. The flights for both elected leaders continued in June, according to interviews.

Each helicopter flight is worth thousands of dollars, according to aviation consultant Bill de Decker, who said the State Police Bell 430s Bruno and Spitzer use would cost \$3,000 hourly if hired from private firms.

Three of Bruno's 145-mile, one-hour helicopter flights to Manhattan in May were on dates that Republicans hosted major fund-raisers, two of which featured Bruno, the effective head of the state GOP.

On May 3, Bruno and three aides — Michael Avella, Jeff Lovell and John McArdle — were flown by two State Police pilots and dropped at a helipad at West Street, the records state.

They were then driven by a State police investigator to the Sheraton Hotel at 7th Avenue and 52nd Street at 2 p.m.

Bruno hosted the 33rd Annual Spring Reception of the State Senate Republican Campaign Committee at the Sheraton that day. A reception, costing \$1,000 per person, began at 5 p.m. A private reception costing \$5,000 per person began at 5:30 p.m.

The investigator said in a memo that he picked up the foursome at the hotel at 7 a.m. the next day, took them to Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens, and delivered them to Laguardia Airport at 10 a.m. when a State Police aviation crew flew them back to Albany.

On May 17, Bruno and his three aides left the Exit 23 helipad at the Thruway Authority headquarters in Albany at 11 a.m. aboard one of the executive Bell helicopters.

At 12:30 p.m. a State Police investigator in Manhattan brought Bruno to a meeting at C.V. Starr & Co. on Park Ave.

The company's leader is AIG Chairman Maurice Greenberg. AIG has been a generous contributor to state Republican campaigns. State Police then transported Bruno to the

Sheraton, where he spent the night.

From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Bruno and numerous Senate Republicans attended the Annual New York Republican State Committee Dinner at the Sheraton. Participants paid at least \$1,000 per person and up to \$10,000 per couple to hear U.S. Sen. John McCain and former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani speak.

State Police flew Bruno's group back to Albany the next morning at 9 a.m. with Bruno's spokesman Kris Thompson replacing Avella on the one-hour return trip.

On May 24, Bruno and his aides — Avella, Lovell and Steve Boggess — left Albany on the helicopter at 3:30 p.m.

A State Police investigator drove them from a downtown helipad to New York City Hall.

They were transported to a meeting at the Sheraton Hotel and then to next door to Russo's Restaurant, the investigator's memo said. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. the Food Industry Reception at Russo's Restaurant honored Bruno.

Checks were collected for the New York State Senate Republican Campaign Committee's housekeeping account at Russo's. The invitations noted that corporate contributions did not apply toward the \$5,000 corporate calendar year limit.

The State Police investigator picked up Bruno at the restaurant around 7 p.m. His group was taken back to Albany on the helicopter about 7:20 p.m.

Bruno spokesman Mark Hansen would not discuss the trips or provide Bruno's itinerary.

"Sen. Bruno uses the transportation services provided to him in his role as majority leader for state purposes," Hansen said. "As he has, and continues to receive, death threats and other threats to his safety, based on what people read in the Times Union and other negative reports, he is provided with State Police protection when traveling."

The Code of Ethics of the State Public Officers Law prohibits a public official from using or attempting to use his official position to gain unwarranted privileges "for himself or others." Violators are subject to fines, removal from office or suspension, or a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 and the value of the gift or benefit.

The state penal law can also come into play when someone defrauds the state, as former Comptroller Alan Hevesi was found to have done last year.

Disclosures last fall of Hevesi's use of state personnel to chauffeur his wife, who he claimed needed security, led to the end of Hevesi's three-decade career in government. He made restitution of more than \$200,000, pleaded guilty to fraud and paid a \$5,000 fine for his crimes.

Last fall, Bruno forcefully called for Hevesi to resign and reimburse the state for using a staffer as his wife's driver before prosecutors completed an investigation. He also declared that it wasn't "an appropriate question" to ask him if he had ever used drivers, too.

At least part of one of Spitzer's trips was political. And a portion of one of the seven flights Lt. Gov. David Paterson took included a brief political stop. But neither Democratic leader engaged in personal fund-raising, and their spokesmen said they would not do so on the state taxpayer's dime.

Other top elected and legislative officials — including Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver — did not request or receive rides aboard state aircraft, records show.

Spitzer spokesman Darren Dopp said the planes are provided when available, and are supposed to be used only for government business. The governor, he said, would only use private planes for his fund-raising events.

The Spitzer administration requires documentation of the purpose of state-related trips by non-executive staffers, a departure from previous administrations.

Dopp would not discuss Bruno's use of the planes.

"We will review this matter carefully before commenting," he said. He and State Police officials wouldn't say if senators are entitled to regular State Police security details or if the administration had been alerted that someone had threatened Bruno's life.

David Catalfamo, a spokesman for Gov. George Pataki, said Bruno, who used state planes dozens of times each year during the Republican governor's tenure, would call to place a request for the aircraft.

"We'd assume that they were

using it for the appropriate government business," Catalfamo said. "Everyone knows the rules: You're not supposed to use it for political events." He said he had never heard of any death threats against the senator.

Spitzer and Paterson provided daily itineraries for the days they used public planes.

During a day of stops in Binghamton and Rochester on April 10, the State Police Aviation Unit brought Spitzer and four aides to the Monroe County Democratic Committee dinner, the records show.

The Democratic event, one of 13 stops on the first-term Democrat's schedule that day, was a fund-raiser for the county party costing \$75 for committee members and \$300 for all others. More than 500 people attended, said Derek Murphy, a committee staffer.

Paterson, during a multi-event day in Washington, D.C. for the National Lieutenant Governor's Association Winter Meeting, also veered from government business. He scheduled a half-hour with Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean at Dean's office near the Capitol. But the visit was cut short.

"The trip had nothing to do with fund-raising of any kind," said Charles J. O'Byrne, a spokesman for Paterson. He said Paterson spoke with Dean for about three minutes on the sidewalk outside his office.

Dopp, the Spitzer spokesman, said the governor conducted several public and private meetings during the two-county trip that included the Monroe County party dinner. The trip did not involve personal fund-raising, he said.

Bruno's refusal to detail his activities is troubling, said Russ Haven, legislative counsel for the New York Public Interest Research Group.

"We've always called for an independent entity to oversee cases like this, or any allegations of breach of the ethics laws or the Public Officers Law," said Russ Haven, legislative counsel to the New York Public Interest Research Group. "At a minimum there needs to be a public explanation."

James M. Odatto can be reached at 454-5083 or by e-mail at [jodatto@timesunion.com](mailto:jodatto@timesunion.com).

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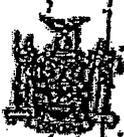
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DEPARTMENT OF  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

FLIGHT REQUEST INFORMATION

AIRCRAFT REQUESTED: Bell Helicopter  
(Aircraft or other request is subject to availability and weather conditions)

REQUESTOR: Senator Joseph L. Bruno

OFFICE CONTACT: Karla King - 455-3151  
(Please name and phone number for reporting office)

DATE	TIME	DEPART FROM (Designate airport)	ARRIVE AT (Designate airport)
Thurs., 5/3	1:00 pm	Heit 23, Albany	West 30th St., NYC
Fri., 5/4	10:30am/ 11:00 am	Albany Airport	Heit 23, Albany

PASSENGERS TRAVELING:

Senator Bruno, John DeMarco, Mike Avella, Ross Kowall

PURPOSE OF FLIGHT REQUEST:

(Please indicate the official and business purposes for your schedule during the hours between landing and departing from the arrival city, and indicate the time of filing of any changes.)

Legislative business meetings.

I hereby certify that the statements above and in the statement are true and accurate.

SIGNATURE OF REQUESTOR

APPROVED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
TO THE GOVERNOR

YES NO

7029  
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PC / PH

Transportation Assignment for Senator Joseph Bruno

May 03 and 04, 2007 – Investigator John G. Colon

May 03, 2007

2:00PM – Arrived West 30th Heliport with three staff members  
All transported to meetings at the Sheraton Hotel (7th Ave & 52nd St)

7:00pm - Dinner at Italian Restaurant on Eastside (unknown name,  
located between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in upper 40s)

11:00pm - All subjects transported back to Sheraton Hotel

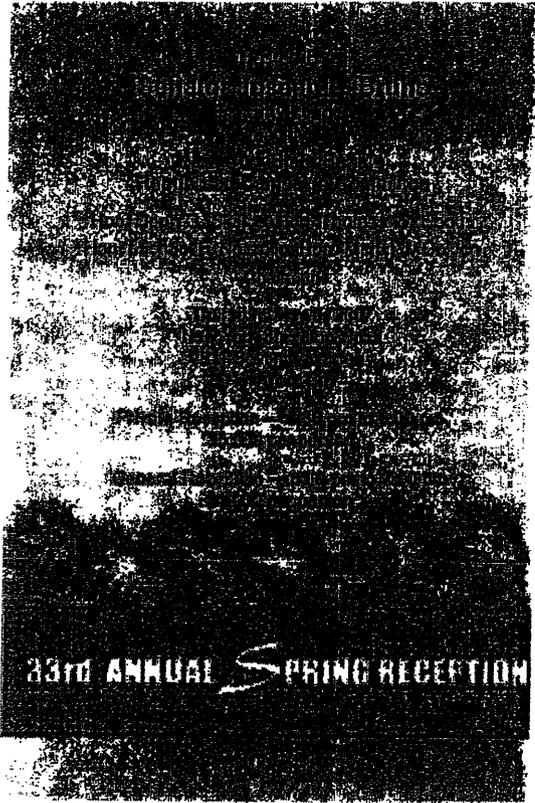
May 04, 2007

7:00am - Transported all subjects from Sheraton to Aqueduct Racetrack

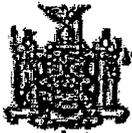
11:00am - Depart from Aqueduct to Laganrdia Airport (Marine Air  
Terminal)

End of Assignment

\*All times approximate



83rd ANNUAL SPRING RECEPTION



MEMORANDUM  
 STATE OF NEW YORK  
 EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

FLIGHT REQUEST INFORMATION

AIRCRAFT REQUESTED: Helicopter  
*(helicopter or plane request is subject to schedule and weather changes)*

REQUESTOR: Senator Joseph L. Bruno

OFFICE CONTACT: Lusia King - 455-3191  
*(contact name and phone number for requesting office)*

DATE	TIME	DEPART FROM <i>(helipad or airport)</i>	ARRIVE AT <i>(helipad or airport)</i>
THURS., 5/17	11:00 am	Exit 23, Albany	West 30th St., NYC
Fri., 5/18	9:00 am	West 30th St., NYC	Exit 23, Albany

PASSENGERS TRAVELING: Senator Bruno, John McArdle, Jeff Lovell, & Mike Avella (for the return, Kris Thompson will replace Mike Avella).

PURPOSE OF FLIGHT REQUEST:  
*(Please indicate the official state business reflected on your schedule during the hours between landing and departing from the arrival city, and advise the Chief of Staff of any changes.)*

Legislative business meetings.

I hereby certify that the statements above and in the attachment are true and accurate.

*Joseph L. Bruno*  
 SIGNATURE OF REQUESTOR

APPROVED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
 TO THE GOVERNOR

YES     NO

Trip to NYC - Thursday, May 17th & Friday, May 18th - 2007

Senator Bruno, Mike Avella, Jeff Lovell, & John McArdle

Thursday, May 17th

11:00 am Helicopter (N430NY) leaves from Exit 23, Albany.  
12:00 pm Helicopter lands at West 30th St, NYC.  
Driver: The NYS Police will pick you up and take you to/from all meetings.  
Driver:  
12:30 pm C.V. Starr & Co., 399 Park Ave., 17th Flr., NYC (212-759-5999).  
3:30 pm - Overnight Sheraton New York Hotel, Seventh Ave. at 52nd St., NYC  
(212-381-1000).

Friday, May 18th

9:00 am Helicopter (N430NY) leaves from West 30th St, NYC. (Kris Thompson  
will replace Mike Avella on the helicopter for the return flight.)  
10:00 am Helicopter lands at Exit 23, Albany.



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## Annual New York Republican State Committee Dinner

Thursday, May 17, 2007  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

New York Sheraton Hotel and Towers  
811 Seventh Avenue  
(between 52nd and 53rd Streets)  
New York City

Invited Keynote Speaker  
**Senator John McCain**

With Special Guest  
**Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani**

Reception and Dinner: \$1,000 per person  
Host Committee Reception & Dinner: \$10,000 per  
couple

*Paid for and authorized by the Nassau County Republican Committee*

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 01/19/2007 WED 11:53 FAX [REDACTED] 0002 0002



MEMORANDUM  
 STATE OF NEW YORK  
 EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

RECEIVED  
 MAY 21 2007  
 OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**FLIGHT REQUEST INFORMATION**

**AIRCRAFT REQUESTED:** Helicopter  
*(helicopter or plane request is subject to schedule and weather changes)*

**REQUESTOR:** Senator Joseph L. Bruno

**OFFICE CONTACT:** Leslie King - 665-3191  
*(provide name and phone number for requesting office)*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DEPART FROM</u> <i>(helipad or airport)</i>	<u>ARRIVE AT</u> <i>(helipad or airport)</i>
Thurs., 5/24	3:30 pm	Exit 23, Albany	West 30th St., NYC
Thurs., 5/24	7:15 pm	West 30th St., NYC	Exit 23, Albany

**PASSENGERS TRAVELING:** Senator Bruno, Steve Boggess, Mike Avella,  
 & Jeff Lowall

**PURPOSE OF FLIGHT REQUEST:**  
*(Please indicate the official state business reflected on your schedule during the hours between landing and departing from the arrival city, and include the Chief of Staff of any changes.)*

Legislative business meetings.

I hereby certify that the statements above and in the attachment are true and accurate.

Joseph L. Bruno  
 SIGNATURE OF REQUESTOR

APPROVED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
 TO THE GOVERNOR

YES     NO

Transportation Assignment for Senator Joseph Bruno

May 24, 2007 – Investigator Robert J. Swansen

3:30PM – Arrived at Downtown Heliport and transported to meeting at City Hall

4:45PM – Transported from City Hall to meeting at Sheraton Hotel (Seventh Avenue and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street)

6:15PM – Dinner at Russo's Restaurant (Seventh at 50<sup>th</sup> Street)

7:00PM – Transported from Russo's to West 30<sup>th</sup> Street Heliport

7:20P – Departed from Helipad

End of Assignment

\* All times approximate

**You are Cordially Invited to a Food Industry Reception**

**Honoring**

**NEW YORK  
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER  
JOSEPH BRUNO**

**Thursday, May 24, 2007  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Russo's Restaurant  
790 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 51<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York City**

***GMA/FPA Suggested Contribution Level \$5,000***

**For more information or to RSVP contact:**

**Scott Right at (202) 639-3965 or [sright@fna-food.org](mailto:sright@fna-food.org)**

***Please make checks payable to the  
NYS Senate Republican Campaign  
Committee - Housekeeping account  
PO Box 7229  
Albany, New York 12224***

**\* Corporate contributions to the NYS Senate Republican Campaign Committee - Housekeeping acc  
are acceptable and do not apply towards the \$5,000 corporate calendar year limit**