

# The New York Times

April 15, 2011

## Ex-chairman of New York Stock Exchange may run for mayor

By MICHAEL BARBARO

Richard A. Grasso, the former chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, suggested on Thursday night that he would run for mayor of New York City in 2013 if his longtime nemesis, former Gov. Eliot L. Spitzer, entered the race and the city's police commissioner sat it out.

It was the first time that Mr. Grasso publicly addressed his interest in becoming a candidate, though the possibility that he might has been rumored in city political circles for months.

Mr. Grasso told a crowd at Wagner College on Staten Island that he would relish the chance to take on Mr. Spitzer, who as attorney general in 2004 sued to try to recover much of Mr. Grasso's \$140 million in compensation from the stock exchange. That sum embroiled Mr. Grasso in a drawn-out controversy that eventually became a public feud with Mr. Spitzer, now a CNN host.

But Mr. Grasso was emphatic about not challenging Raymond W. Kelly, the police commissioner, who he has said possesses the skills and résumé to be mayor.

"If the man who really should be the mayor, the next mayor of the city of New York, the great police commissioner Ray Kelly, chooses not to run, and if my former adversary does run as an independent in 2013, I will run for mayor of the City of New York," he said to loud applause. Wagner's media relations director, Lee Manchester, who attended the speech, called it a "conditional declaration." While Mr. Grasso could not be reached for comment, it does not appear he has taken any additional steps to prepare for a campaign.

The field of Democrats likely to weigh a run for mayor is crowded: the City Council speaker, Christine C. Quinn; Comptroller John C. Liu; the public advocate, Bill de Blasio; and the Manhattan borough president, Scott M. Stringer. Mr. Grasso would probably run as a Republican or an independent.

Mr. Spitzer did not respond to an e-mail. A spokesman for Mr. Kelly declined to comment.