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Ex-MTA Boss Joe Lhota: I'll File For 2013 Mayor's Race This Week

By Celeste Katz

I'll fill this out in a bit, but yes, Republican former MTA Joe Lhota's getting into the 2013 mayoral for real.

"I would not have left the MTA [if] I were not going to run for mayor," Lhota told a crowd of hundreds at a New York Building Congress luncheon this afternoon.



Lhota, who officially resigned the transit agency on Dec. 31 to ponder a run for office, will file papers by Friday.

The ex-chairman got kudos for getting the severely damaged subway system up and running quickly after the devastation of Hurricane Sandy -- something that figured heavily into his remarks today at the Mandarin Oriental.

"I'd like you to think about this. Was Shakespeare right when he wrote in 'The Tempest,' 'The past is prologue'?" Lhota asked the audience somewhat archly. "If you agree that the MTA is in a better condition today than it was a year ago, then imagine what I could do in my future [with] a much more complex organization."

A crush of reporters (including this one) pressed Lhota for further details about his filing, platform, campaign and everything else after his remarks, but he didn't give up much. Listen:

As I've previously reported, The former deputy mayor to Rudy Giuliani has already assembled an inner circle of unofficial advisors from within the Giuliani universe, including Susan Del Percio (who was at Lhota's side today) and fundraising powerhouse Tamara Hallisey.