

DAILY NEWS

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[Kelly Speaks, But Not On '09](#)

The DN's Adam Lisberg reports:

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly was the keynote speaker today at the Pierre Hotel for the 25th anniversary luncheon for the Housing Partnership Development Corporation, which links banks, lenders, developers and nonprofit groups to develop affordable housing.

His speech was a boilerplate rundown of the NYPD's progress in fighting crime and terrorism, noting near the end that a safer city means more people want to live here, which made affordable housing more necessary.

"New York City has come a long way, and we have no intention of coming back," Kelly said. "But by the same token, we have to ensure the city remains affordable for all those who contribute to its phenomenal success - the schoolteachers, the laborers, the hospital workers, and yes, the police officers."

Sound like a mayoral wannabe? He got a rousing ovation.

The DN later asked him to elaborate on the challenges facing police officers trying to make it on a \$25,000 starting salary.

"Affordable housing is an issue for a lot of people, and unfortunately, police are no exception. The low starting salary, that is an issue," said Kelly, who also touted a new tuition repayment program to help young cops.

And does a speech to a housing group mean he might have his eye on running for mayor?

"I have no plans to do that," Kelly said.

Of course, as has been noted before with other potential candidates for a variety of elected posts: "No plans" is not "no," nor does it rule anything out.