

For release:
May 17, 2007

STATEMENT BY DARREN DOPP, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE
GOVERNOR, REGARDING SENATOR BRUNO'S USE OF STATE AIRCRAFT

Our office has received inquiries regarding Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno's use of state aircraft.

Our policy regarding use of the aircraft is clear: The state plane and helicopter may be used only for official state business.

The Senator makes periodic requests for use of a state helicopter and did so recently for use today. At the time he made the request, the Senator attested that he and his staff required transportation to New York City for "legislative meetings."

Based upon this claim, use of the state helicopter was granted for the Senator and three staff members to depart late this morning and return early tomorrow morning.

Today, our office learned that Senator Bruno's "legislative meetings" were to be held at C.V. Starr & Co. at 12:30 pm and the Sheraton Hotel at 3:30 pm. We have asked the Senator to verify that these meetings involve official state business.

Subsequent to receiving his reply, we will determine what action is necessary and appropriate.

