

**NASW-NYS Political Post**  
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**Where there is Smoke, there May be Fire** – Last week, I reported here in the Post that the NY Times “expose” on the governor seemed to be blown out of proportion as the article in question seemed not to focus on Paterson but instead revolved around one of his top aides, David Johnson. The article alleged that Johnson had a history of drug abuse and domestic violence and called his meteoric rise from driver to top state official into question. Upon publication, the Governor defended Johnson (see last week’s Post) but this week, he’s singing a different tune. In a follow up article Wednesday the Times reported that Johnson’s domestic violence wasn’t in his long forgotten past, as the Governor suggested last week, but alleges Johnson attacked his girlfriend as recently as Halloween of 2009. The bomb shell though is the Governors alleged involvement in a cover up. The Times reports “Last fall, a woman went to court in the Bronx to testify that she had been violently assaulted by a top aide to Gov. David A. Paterson, and to seek a protective order against the man. In the ensuing months, she returned to court twice to press her case, complaining that the State Police had been harassing her to drop it. The State Police, which had no jurisdiction in the matter, confirmed that the woman was visited by a member of the governor’s personal security detail. Then, just before she was due to return to court to seek a final protective order, the woman got a phone call from the governor, according to her lawyer. She failed to appear for her next hearing on Feb. 8, and as a result her case was dismissed.” Several sources reported this morning that Paterson is considering pulling out of the 2010 gubernatorial race. Other sources such as the Daily News reported this morning that “he could be forced to resign, be impeached, or face criminal charges.” Is there a Political Dysfunction Olympics that I wasn’t aware of? I think we’re sweeping gold.

**Any publicity is good publicity...or not! - Late Breaking News** – Capital Confidential is reporting that “David Paterson will announce today he is suspending his nascent campaign for governor.”

**When the going gets tough, the tough get going** - Denise O'Donnell, Paterson’s Criminal Justice Czar, resigned last evening in the wake of the recent scandal stating “The fact that the governor and members of the State Police have acknowledged direct contact with a woman who had filed for an order of protection against a senior member of the governor's staff is a very serious matter. These actions are unacceptable regardless of their intent.”