

**NASW-NYS Political Post**  
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**Karin Moran, MSW**

**Under the Big Top** – The Daily News is reporting today that “Investigators have found little direct evidence that Gov. Paterson tampered with a witness in a domestic abuse case against one of his top aides. While several key people have yet to be interviewed, the woman at the heart of the case, Sherr-una Booker, told probers she didn't feel the governor threatened her in a phone conversation a day before a Feb. 8 hearing in the case.” Meanwhile, the media frenzy continues at the capitol though it has abated a bit.

**The High Wire** – In a highly complicated balancing act, Lieutenant Governor Richard Ravitch proposed a \$6 billion borrowing plan over the next three years as a means to mitigate the current and projected budget crisis. The plan also calls for the creation of a five member financial review board whose charge would revolve around budget oversight and approval. The plan however, also calls for deep cuts...“There have to be dramatic cuts -- I haven't denied the fact that a lot of people are going to get hurt,” Ravitch said after laying out his plan for reporters in the state Capitol's Blue Room. “The plan would likely lead to job cuts and reduced services.” It also includes extending the current fiscal year through June 30<sup>th</sup>. The plan received mixed reviews from members of the legislature...“It's a serious attempt to deal with a long-term plan and it's the first one that's been on the table, and were going to take it very seriously,” said Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, D-Westchester. Senator Diane Savino, D- Staten Island commented...“I'm encouraged by what I heard,”, D-Staten Island. “Of course, we're going to want to take it into account and balance it against our constitutional authority over the budget.” To read the entire story simply log onto the following website...<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=910071&category=STATE&TextPage=2#ixzzOhtEAab8a>

**Lions and Tigers and Bears** – A Siena Poll released earlier in the week suggests the overwhelming majority of New Yorkers are embarrassed by the state legislature's constant battling and seemingly incessant scandals. “Seventy percent of voters agreed that New York has never been more dysfunctional, and by a 54 percent to 41 percent margin, voters also say that what's going on in Albany makes them “embarrassed” to call themselves New Yorkers. In upstate, 61 percent to 35 percent said they are embarrassed by the latest scandals, the Siena poll found. Statewide, 75 percent of New Yorkers said they would vote for anyone “that will clean up the mess in Albany once and for all.” In upstate, 80 percent said they would. But 55 percent of voters want embattled Gov. David Paterson to serve the remainder of his term...”