

Dinkins' message called flawed

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Mayor David Dinkins' annual State of the City address has gotten mixed reviews.

In that speech, the mayor said that New York City is safer and more economically sound than when he took office.

One long-time critic, Democratic Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio of Queens disputed the mayor's safe streets contention. "There are no safe streets in New York. Dinkins lied all over the place," said Seminerio. Not all legislators were as critical.

Democratic Assemblyman William F. Boyland of Brooklyn called the mayor's speech interesting and ambitious.

Boyland said the mayor's "Safe streets, safe city" program has shown results.

And later, City Council Speaker Peter Vallone said it was the council that was responsible for several of the successes for which Dinkins took credit, including the "safe streets" program.

As for Seminerio's criticism, he said the reason the crime rate has dropped in New York City is because Dinkins did away with the New York City Police Department's Technical Narcotics Task Force (TNT) program. The TNT program was responsible for 5,000 arrests in New York City last year, according to Seminerio.

Boyland noted that the mayor omitted any mention of

job opportunities, which he is said the best way to significantly reduce crime.

In his speech the mayor said that because of his administration's "spirit of reform and renaissance" government in New York City has been reinvented and "the foundation of our fiscal house stands solid."

Seminerio disputed that. "Mayor Dinkins is full of it up to his ears."

While not as critical as Seminerio, Vallone said that New York City, which exists from budget to budget, is "the result [of] government by hindsight with no clear vision of the future."

Dinkins later responded that Vallone's comments were "a strong defense for his institution." Vallone has led a move to make the City Council a branch equal to the executive.

City Council President Andrew Stein, who will run against Dinkins in the upcoming Democratic mayoral primary, said there was nothing in this speech that talked about dealing with substantial reform.

Stein said Vallone's speech was "a much more realistic vision of the city than the mayor gave."

The mayor's proposals included programs to benefit women by establishing grants of up to \$100,000 for the establishment of child-care programs, \$15 million to extend library hours in 205 branches, and \$13 million for a five year health care program.