

FBI's taped pols are ID'd

Judge unseals names of legislators

Former Queens state Sen. Shirley Huntley taped six fellow Democratic senators from three different boroughs last year at the FBI's behest, according to an unsealed sentencing memo that named names.

The FBI on "multiple occasions" recorded and photographed Sens. John Sampson, Eric Adams and Velmanette Montgomery of Brooklyn, Malcolm Smith and Jose Peralta of Queens, and Ruth Hassell-Thompson of the Bronx during arranged visits to Huntley's home, said the memo from Huntley's lawyer released yesterday. She also recorded meetings with New York City Councilman Ruben Wills; former Smith press adviser

Curtis Taylor, and Melvin Lowe, identified as a "former political consultant and associate of Attorney General Eric Schneiderman."

Prosecutors have said that eight of the nine are the subjects of ongoing criminal probes, and three of the nine made comments "useful to law enforcement" during the

meetings.

But they have not identified which individuals fall into which of those categories, and declined to do so again yesterday after the names were ordered unsealed in federal court by U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein, who will sentence Huntley on embezzlement charges today.

Coming after three recent federal indictments targeting public officials — including Smith last month, and Sampson this week — political observers called the new revelations a "disaster."

"It's more than a straw on a camel's back," said Doug Muzzio, a Baruch College political science professor. "It's a

bale of straw."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Senate GOP Majority Leader Dean Skelos had no comment.

Mike Murphy, a spokesman for the Democratic conference, said in a statement, "This is an extremely trying time in Albany. If any charges are brought the conference will take appropriate action." (NEWSDAY)

'This is an extremely trying time in Albany'

— Mike Murphy, spokesman for the Senate's Democratic Conference

The nine recorded by Huntley

These seven pols and two political associates were recorded by ex-state Sen. Shirley Huntley at the behest of the FBI. Their names were released in court yesterday.



PATRICK MC CARTHY

Sen. John Sampson (D-Brooklyn)

Indicted Monday on charges of embezzlement and obstruction of justice.



CHARLES ECKERT

Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Queens)

Accused in April of bribing GOP leaders in Queens and the Bronx in exchange for entry into that party's primary for New York City mayor.



CHARLES ECKERT

Sen. Eric Adams (D-Brooklyn)

Elected in 2006 after 22 years in the New York City Police Department.



ALBANY TIMES UNION

Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson (D-Bronx/Westchester)

First elected in 2000 after serving on the Mount Vernon City Council, including as president and acting mayor.



ALBANY TIMES UNION

Sen. Velmanette Montgomery (D-Brooklyn)

First elected in 1984. Ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Children and Families.



Sen. Jose Peralta (D-Queens)

In a 2010 special election, became the first Dominican-American elected to the state Senate. Ranking Democrat on the Labor Committee. State assemblyman from 2003 to 2010.



CHARLES ECKERT

New York City Councilman Ruben Wills

Formerly Huntley's chief of staff. Elected in a 2010 special election after the death of Thomas White Jr.

Melvin Lowe, political consultant in the past 12 years with the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee, Sampson and state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, among others.

Curtis Taylor, former press adviser for Smith. He is a former Newsday reporter.

Arias found guilty of murdering ex-boyfriend

An Arizona jury found Jodi Arias guilty yesterday of first-degree murder in the death of her ex-boyfriend in a sensational capital case involving "sex, lies and dirty little secrets" that has snared media attention since January.

Jodi Arias, 32, was convicted in the slaying of Travis Alexander, a businessman and motivational speaker who was found dead in the shower of his Phoenix home with a gunshot wound to his face, multiple stab wounds and a slashed throat.

Upon hearing the verdict, Arias, looking mostly stoic,



Jodi Arias faces the death penalty or life in prison.

teared up slightly. Friends and family of Alexander cried with joy while a group of trial followers inside and outside the courtroom cheered the verdict.

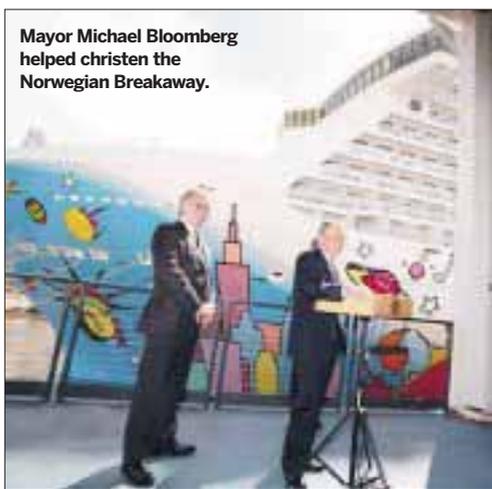
Arias previously admitted

to killing Alexander in self-defense after he attacked her in the shower when she dropped his camera. Her defense attorney said Arias snapped, but prosecutors portrayed her as manipulative.

Deliberations will now determine whether Arias faces the death penalty or life in prison.

Arias said in a post-conviction interview that she prefers a death sentence, according to the AP.

A lawyer told reporters outside the courthouse yesterday that Alexander's family will also file a wrongful-death suit against Arias. (ANNA SANDERS)



Mayor Michael Bloomberg helped christen the Norwegian Breakaway.

MAYORS OFFICE

NYC welcomes city's largest cruise ship

The biggest cruise ship ever to call New York City home was christened yesterday with Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and the Rockettes attending the celebration for the Norwegian Breakaway.

The 18-deck ship will dock at Pier 88 and make seven-day trips to Bermuda in the summer, and to the Bahamas and Florida in the winter. Bloomberg said it will play a major part in the city's cruise industry.

"It's a tremendous vote of confidence in New York as a tourist hub," Bloomberg said.

(TIM HERRERA)