

**TWIN BEAMS** LIGHT TRIBUTE TO SEPTEMBER 11 VICTIMS



A TEST of the Tribute in Light memorial was carried out in New York for tomorrow's 12th anniversary of the 9/11 Twin Tower attacks.

Twin beams intersect, left, with the still-under construction Tower One as they rise behind the building and over lower Manhattan. The beams are from 88 searchlights near Ground Zero – the site of the former World Trade Centre which collapsed when terrorists flew two jets into the towers in 2001. The lights are turned on every anniversary in tribute to the 3,000 killed after four planes were hijacked.

# Roll up for the bizarre parade to be NY mayor

Daniel Bates  
**LETTER FROM NEW YORK**



BY LATE tonight there is a good chance that New Yorkers will know who they are voting for in the next mayoral election. The primaries are taking place today, meaning that the Democrats and Republicans will likely choose their candidates after a city-wide poll.

Whether their chosen representatives can convince the electorate, however, is another matter. Not since the Republican presidential primaries last year has America seen such a bizarre parade, with the eventual winner being put in charge of eight million New Yorkers.

The issues have been superseded, for the most part, by the participation of shamed Democrat ex-Congressman Anthony Weiner, whose name is a gift to the tabloid press. He quit his seat in 2011 when he was caught sending naked pictures of himself to women he met on the internet. He claimed to be rehabilitated but was exposed for sexting again, using the alias "Carlos Danger", including to one Sydney Leathers, who made a porn film about their liaisons.

The Democratic front-runner is Bill de Blasio, the city's public advocate, (a kind of ombudsman), whose promise to raise taxes on those earning more

than \$500,000 to pay for schools has gone down well. But Mr de Blasio, who is white, has faced criticism from incumbent mayor Michael Bloomberg, who called him racist – for making his black wife and their son a prominent feature of his campaign. Other Democrats include Christine Quinn, vowing to be the first female and first openly gay mayor of New York; and John Liu, who would be the first Asian-American mayor – but who has faced a federal investigation over his fundraising.

On the Republican side, things are more predictable. Their candidate will almost certainly be Joe Lhota, head of transport during Superstorm Sandy, and former No2 under Rudy Giuliani in the Nineties. Polls suggest he will beat John Catsimatidis, an eccentric supermarket billionaire who has vowed a crackdown on "the hoodlums" bedeviling the city, whoever they might be.

The final election is on November 5, and hopefully voters will decide on the actual issues: whether to fire police commissioner Ray Kelly, and end the NYPD's controversial stop-and-frisk tactics, which critics say unfairly targets black and hispanic New Yorkers.

The city must also choose the comptroller, who controls its budget, a contest no less colourful. One candidate is Democrat Eliot Spitzer, who quit as New York state governor in 2008 when he was exposed for being "Client No9" in a high-class prostitution ring.



**Jump up and get down:** Democrat front-runner Bill de Blasio dances with his family. Above, shamed Anthony Weiner

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