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## The Week That Was

02-15-19

### 1. AMA-GON

#### *Our Spin:*

First he took down Jeff Klein and the IDC. Next it was John Flanagan and the New York Senate Republicans. Now he has done battle with corporate giant Amazon. Who will Deputy Majority Leader Gianaris take on next? I certainly can't predict the future but it seems like we might just be in line for a clash of the titans... Governor Cuomo vs. General Gianaris. Grab some popcorn, this should be good!

#### *The Story:*

On Thursday Amazon announced it is ditching its plans to build a new headquarters in New York after facing backlash from members of the community. "After much thought and deliberation, we've decided not to move forward with our plans to build a headquarters for Amazon in Long Island City, Queens," Jodi Seth, an Amazon spokeswoman, said in a statement.

In the statement, Amazon noted that "a number of state and local politicians have made it clear that they oppose our presence and will not work with us to build the type of relationships that are required to go forward with the project we and many others envisioned in Long Island City." Amazon selected New York City and Northern Virginia in November to split duty as its second headquarters (nicknamed HQ2) after a year-long search. Each city was expected to have more than 25,000 workers over time.

The new headquarters was initially set up by top New York politicians including Governor Andrew Cuomo as a tremendous job creation opportunity that could benefit the

broader New York region. All at once, it seemed to cement New York City as a technology hub that could truly rival Silicon Valley. However, after the deal was announced, critics blasted the \$1.525 billion in incentives New York offered to lure the tech behemoth and worried that it would soon lead to longtime residents being priced out of their homes. Protesters took to the streets in Long Island City, criticizing the deal for being bad for taxpayers and the neighborhood.

Amazon's decision on Thursday was met with a mix of disappointment and jabs from frustrated politicians, including Governor Cuomo, who put direct blame on the State Senate. "However, a small group of politicians put their own narrow political interests above their community -- which poll after poll showed overwhelmingly supported bringing Amazon to Long Island City -- the state's economic future and the best interests of the people of this state. The New York State Senate has done tremendous damage. They should be held accountable for this lost economic opportunity.

[Wall Street Journal](#)

### 2. Quack, Quack

#### *Our Spin:*

Will former Governor Paterson be a lobbyist or a consultant for Sheldon Adelson? Howard Glaser, a former aide to Governor Cuomo, is a "consultant", while other former politicians have been hired on as lobbyists. If it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, it's probably a duck...or possibly a lobbyist.

*The Story:*

Another former prominent New York politician is joining Sheldon Adelson's campaign to open a casino in New York City. Adelson's Las Vegas Sands will announce today that it is naming former Governor David Paterson, a Democrat, to lead efforts to connect women and people of color to Las Vegas Sands casino jobs in New York City, should such a casino ever materialize.

Though state law appears to bar full-scale New York City casinos until 2023, several casino interests, including Las Vegas Sands, are hoping to advance the timeline. In a perhaps tacit acknowledgment of Adelson's toxicity in Trump-averse New York State, Las Vegas Sands has been methodically laying the political groundwork.

This is not Paterson's first foray into the gambling world. He was governor when the state awarded, and then rescinded, a video slot machine license to a consortium called Aqueduct Entertainment Group, a process that the state inspector general subsequently said was tarnished by "unrestrained political considerations." Today Paterson works at an investment bank and does occasional consulting..

He said he has no particular reservations about working for a company whose chairman and CEO is one of the GOP's biggest donors and a close ally of President Donald Trump.

"In business, it's not about coming in and trying to change the minds of people," he said. "It's [about] coming in and trying to work with them as they are."

[Politico](#)

### 3. Low Sodium

*Our Spin:*

Governor Cuomo and top administration officials met with President Trump in D.C. this week to discuss Trump's 2017 tax overhaul, a measure Cuomo contends is driving the wealthy out of the state. Cuomo pitched the President on repealing the federal cap on state and local tax deductions, which is hurting New Yorker's. Trump being Trump, pitched right back criticizing New York's new law bolstering abortion rights in the state and banning fracking. The President seemed to be willing to listen however red state Senators don't seem to be as sympathetic.

*The Story:*

President Donald Trump met behind closed doors with Democratic New York Governor Andrew Cuomo for a wide-ranging conversation Tuesday on several topics of disagreement.

Trump "met with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo at the Governor's request. This meeting demonstrates the President's willingness to meet regularly with our Nation's governors," White House deputy press secretary Judd Deere said in a statement.

Deere outlined a series of topics the New Yorkers discussed, including abortion, taxes and infrastructure. The New York governor's office has not released its own readout of the afternoon meeting.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo traveled Tuesday to the White House to pitch President Donald Trump on repealing the federal cap on state and local tax deductions, a measure Cuomo has railed against for more than a year. Trump, in turn, pitched Cuomo back.

In an Oval Office meeting, the Republican president urged the Democratic governor of his home state to lift the state's ban on large-scale hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, according to a statement from the White House.

