

EXHIBIT B:
Daily News
7/10/88

Beep has him burning mad

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Councilman Israel Ruiz Jr. says it's "outrageous" for Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer to claim credit for closing a controversial incinerator, saying it wouldn't have been built in the first place without Ferrer's approval.

But Ferrer points a finger of blame at a former aide who he says steered him wrong on the incinerator issue. The former aide, John Greaney, now works for Ruiz, who is running against Ferrer for Bronx borough president.

Greaney worked for Ferrer from 1988 to 1992, part of that time as director of strategic

planning and policy. He insisted he resigned in 1992 on good terms with Ferrer to become a consultant.

But Ferrer said Greaney "was encouraged to resign" because he had botched a 1988 review of the then-proposed Bronx-Lebanon Medical Waste Incinerator and because of other "problems."

"He certainly didn't do his job," Ferrer said.

The controversial incinerator was recently shut down after years of community protests over alleged toxic emissions.

Ferrer took credit two weeks ago for helping to shut it down through a critical independent pollution study commissioned by a citizen advisory group he had formed.

Ruiz cited a letter Ferrer wrote in November 1988 to Bronx-Lebanon Hospital endorsing its "concept" for building the Port Morris incinerator for processing biomedical waste.

The Ferrer letter stated, "Normally, I would be hesitant to support such a concept without first reviewing detailed plans of the project;

however, based upon past performance of your outstanding medical institution I am confident that this will be a state-of-the-art incinerator which will set the standard for similar facilities."

Ruiz said Ferrer was "adding insult to injury by grandstanding on the closure of this poison-spewing incinerator."

Ferrer fired back that his initial endorsement of the incinerator had been based on Greaney's recommendation in 1988.

"He [Greaney] drafted the letter," Ferrer said.

Ferrer said he later became

the incinerator's strongest critic when he discovered it would handle tons of medical waste from other hospitals. He then forced Greaney to quit in 1992, he said.

But Greaney denied he was forced to resign and insisted he had nothing to do with the incinerator project or Ferrer's endorsement letter.

"This is like Nixon blaming his secretary for the tapes," Greaney said.

Ruiz accused Ferrer of trying to shift the blame to Greaney, and added, "He should admit he screwed up."

Retorted Ferrer: "This man is the Mike Tyson of New York politics. I'm going to hold on to my ears from now on."