

★ AMAZON TO ADD QUEENS HUB: REPORTS

BY ZACHARY R. DOWDY
AND MICHAEL GORMLEY
zachary.dowdy@newsday.com
michael.gormley@newsday.com

Seattle-based Amazon, which has been searching for a second base of operations, is finalizing plans to split its new hub between two East Coast cities — Crystal City, Virginia, and Long Island City, Queens, according to published reports.

The New York Times and other outlets reported that Amazon decided to use the two locations to house 50,000 employees, ending speculation and serenades over the past year by politicians in major cities — including Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo — to add one of the nation's most prosperous employers and its employees to their tax rolls.

Cuomo met with Amazon in his Manhattan office two weeks ago, a state source said, adding that he proposed Long Island City and stressing that the Queens location was a finalist, but had not yet been chosen by Amazon.

"I am doing everything I can," Cuomo told reporters when asked Monday about the state's efforts to lure the company, the Times reported. "We have a great incentive package," he said.

The source said the state government is ready to make a substantial offer for Amazon to seal the deal.

Amazon could not be reached for comment Monday night.

Long Island City is part of a larger downstate application by the state to Amazon that also included Long Island. In January, Amazon said the metropolitan region, including Long Island, was among 20 finalists for the company's second headquarters.

The bid from the metropolitan area included New York City, Long Island and Westchester County, and was assembled by the state.

There was no immediate comment from Mayor Bill de Blasio.

With James T. Madore

Carton undecided

Not sure if he'll take stand in his own defense

BY JOHN RILEY
john.riley@newsday.com

Prosecutors rested their fraud case against former sports-talk celebrity Craig Carton on Monday in Manhattan federal court, and the former WFAN star's lawyer said he hasn't decided yet whether to take the stand in his own defense.

"We do not know," defense lawyer Robert Gottlieb told U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon. "We're having serious conversations."

The end of the government's case came unexpectedly early, at the start of the second week of Carton's trial on charges he made false statements to lure investors to put more than \$4 million in his ticket resale business, and then diverted the money.

Prosecutors say that after promising his funders — ranging from a hedge fund to a wealthy Brooklyn pharmacist — that their money would be used to invest in event tickets that could be resold at a profit, Carton used the funds to pay off gambling debts and pay back earlier investors.

In testimony last week, two



Ex-WFAN personality Craig Carton, right, is on trial on fraud charges. The prosecution rested Monday.

executives from Brooklyn Sports and Entertainment, which runs NYCB Live's Nassau Coliseum and Barclays Center, said emails and ticket purchase agreements Carton forwarded to attract one of his investors, the hedge fund Brigade Capital, had been altered.

Jurors also heard testimony from the investors, who said their money was intended only for tickets, and from two loan sharks, who described high-interest short-term loans of as

much as \$500,000 that they made to Carton for gambling.

On Monday, a landscaper and a casino official described other debts, and an expert put in charts and records showing the flow of money from ticket investors, through Carton bank accounts to casinos, the landscaper, and the loan sharks.

Carton's defense is that he was a victim of an alleged co-conspirator — Joseph Meli, who is in prison now for a sepa-

rate ticket-related Ponzi scheme — and that he never intended to defraud or harm any of his investors.

On Monday, Gottlieb asked McMahon to dismiss the charges on that theory. "It is our position that the government has presented evidence, if believed, that shows misrepresentation and . . . may rise to the level of deceit," he said. ". . . That is insufficient."

"You're wrong," the judge said.

Weinstein lawyer: Dismiss charges

BY JOHN RILEY
john.riley@newsday.com

Harvey Weinstein's lawyer asked a Manhattan judge Monday to dismiss all sex-assault charges against the ex-movie mogul and disclosed a new message that could damage the prosecution's case from an alleged victim seeking friendly contact with Weinstein after the date she claims he attacked her.

Mimi Haley, a former Weinstein production assistant and one of three women involved in rape and assault charges filed by the Manhattan district attorney, texted Weinstein's phone in 2007, seven months after he allegedly assaulted her, according to defense lawyer Benjamin Brafman.

"Hi! Just wondering if u have any news on whether Harvey will have time to see me before he leaves? X Miriam," the text said, according to Brafman, who added, "This message makes clear that Mimi Haley wished to continue seeing Mr. Weinstein even after the alleged assault."

Weinstein, 66, was the subject of news reports starting last year saying he used his film industry power to sexually abuse dozens of women. He was criminally charged with making actress Lucia Evans perform oral sex in 2004, assaulting Haley in 2006 and raping an unnamed woman in 2013.

Prosecutors dropped the charges involving Evans last month after disclosing that lead

NYPD Det. Nicholas DiGaudio covered up a statement from a friend revealing that Evans had admitted to her the 2004 encounter was consensual.

The detective also told the alleged rape victim, who had carried on a correspondence with Weinstein after the claimed attack, that she could delete personal items from her cellphone before turning it over to prosecutors, but should keep the deletions secret.

Disclosure of Haley's text added new ammunition to possible defense attacks on the credibility of the two remaining accusers. The woman who charged Weinstein with rape, according to earlier filings, sent dozens of affectionate messages for months after the

claimed attack, including texts like "I love you, always do" and "Miss you big guy."

Brafman, in Monday's motion, argued that the remaining charges should be dismissed because the grand jury had been polluted by "perjury" involving Evans and kept in the dark about inconsistent emails sent by both Haley and the rape accuser.

At a minimum, Brafman said, Judge James Burke should conduct a hearing on misconduct by the NYPD and the prosecutors.

"We believe the impairment of the grand jury proceedings and the concomitant prejudice to Mr. Weinstein are evident," he wrote.

The district attorney's office declined to comment on the latest motion.