

★ CUOMO, TRUMP ON SALT CAP

Gov urges tax reform, prez says slash state levies

BY YANCEY ROY
AND LAURA FIGUEROA HERNANDEZ
yancey.roy@newsday.com
laura.figueroa@newsday.com

ALBANY — President Donald Trump on Tuesday appeared to give a lukewarm reception to New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's views about the impact of the new federal tax code on some New York taxpayers.

Instead of reopening the federal tax debate, Cuomo should slash state taxes, Trump said at the meeting, according to the White House. For his part, Cuomo, a Democrat, said the Republican president was "open" to tax law changes, but didn't indicate that any progress was made toward modifications.

The meeting occurred one week after Cuomo acknowledged New York is facing a \$2.8 billion revenue shortfall that he

blames on Trump's tax plan. The governor contends the new \$10,000 cap on annual state and local tax deductions — referred to as SALT deductions — is hurting some New Yorkers.

After, the White House issued a statement. "President Trump talked about the positive impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on the American economy, and the president listened to the governor's concerns regarding SALT," Deputy White House Press Secretary Judd Deere said.

"The president reiterated the negative impact that high taxes in states like New York have on hardworking families and job creators. The president discussed economic growth opportunities for the state of New York, including helping lower energy prices throughout the entire Northeast by allowing low-cost, American energy to thrive with fracking and pipeline systems," Deere continued. "The two also discussed the need to update America's outdated infrastructure system."

Cuomo, speaking later to



After the meeting, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said President Donald Trump was "open" to tax law changes.

WCBS 880 radio, gave a slightly more upbeat view of the meeting. "The president previously said he was open to a change. He suggested he was open to a change here also, because he understands you hurt New York, you hurt California, you are hurting the economic engines of the nation," Cuomo said.

He said that White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow was in attendance and agreed to "sit down and go through the issues," and that Trump would look at a "reform" package.

Separately, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), who heads

the powerful Senate Finance Committee, told Newsday through a spokesman that he had no plans to revisit the SALT cap because getting rid of it would "primarily benefit the wealthy."

Cuomo said he also raised the issue of stalled funding for the Gateway Tunnel project, which would create an additional set of railway tunnels connecting New York and New Jersey.

"Can't we get past the politics to agree on basic infrastructure needs?" Cuomo asked, later adding: "I haven't gotten a 'yes' on Gateway."

In the final line of the White

House statement, the issue of a state abortion rights law Cuomo signed last month was raised. While supporters say it codified the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision into New York law, it did expand abortion rights from those previously guaranteed by state statute.

"And, the president raised his concerns to Governor Cuomo about Democrats' support of late-term abortions," Deere said.

Asked by WCBS about it, Cuomo said: "He met with a Democratic governor so they felt constrained to reiterate his divisions with the Democrats."

Cops: Driver shot at another in road rage

BY STEFANIE DAZIO
stefanie.dazio@newsday.com

A Centereach man is accused of firing a single shot into another driver's vehicle early Tuesday on the Southern State Parkway during a road rage incident, State Police said.

The victim, a 24-year-old man from Nassau County, was not injured and followed his alleged assailant while on the phone with police, who eventually stopped and arrested Paul Rizzo Jr., 57, on the Long

Island Expressway in Commack around 5:20 a.m., authorities said.

State Police Maj. David Candelaria, Troop L commander, said at a news conference in Farmingdale that the victim apparently drove in front of Rizzo as they were exiting a Gulf gas station on Sunrise Highway in Islip Terrace.

"You shouldn't be engaged in [a road rage incident] first of all," Candelaria said. "Second of all, it does not give you the right to pull out a hand-

gun and take a shot at somebody, period."

They both drove aggressively westbound on the highway — "both vehicles swerving at each other," police said — when Rizzo allegedly fired a single shot from his Beretta pistol from his driver's side window, which struck the victim's passenger-side door.

"I'm on the highway, someone has a gun and just shot at my car," Candelaria said the victim told 911 operators.

Rizzo, in a 2018 Kia SUV, al-

legedly drove onto the Sagtikos Parkway and then onto the LIE with the victim in his 2010 Hyundai Elantra, following at a safe distance while speaking to 911 operators, Candelaria said. What led up to the road rage incident remains under investigation.

"He said he was afraid to get too close," Candelaria said of the victim following Rizzo.

Rizzo, who has a Suffolk County pistol permit, is expected to be arraigned Wednesday at First District

Court in Central Islip. He is charged with second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, first-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree criminal mischief, second-degree menacing, reckless endangerment of property and unlawful possession of marijuana.

Candelaria said he was not aware of any prior convictions. The victim was on his way home from work, and Rizzo was on his way to work, the major said.