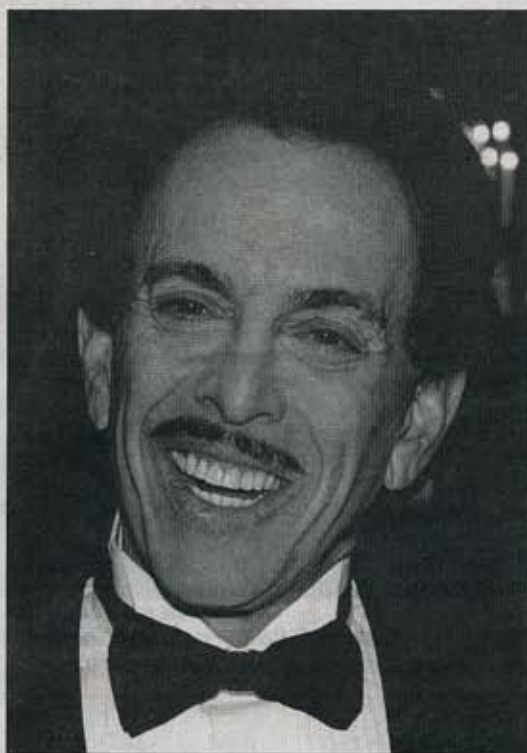


Run from 'Shame'



ARNOLD DIAZ



WILLIE FLOOD

Veteran pol flees camera, queries about hiring her son



HUDSON POLITICIAN
Willie Flood didn't want to be on camera for Arnold Diaz's "Shame, Shame, Shame" feature.

By **KEN THORBOURNE**
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Jersey City Councilwoman Willie Flood was on the run Wednesday night, but not for another political office.

Flood, who is also the county register, was high-tailing it out of City Hall with her son and veteran TV reporter Arnold Diaz and his camera crew in close pursuit.

Diaz is working on another of his "Shame, Shame, Shame" segments for Channel 5/WNYW-TV, focusing on Flood's hiring of her son, Phillip Flood II, to work for her at both of her public offices.

And nepotism isn't the only angle here.

Earlier this year, Flood II was charged with selling marijuana out of his mother's car, and last year he agreed to repay the state nearly \$13,000 in unemployment insurance the state determined he wasn't entitled to.

Diaz and his cameraman and producer had positioned themselves outside the council caucus room on the second floor at City Hall, when

Flood and her son, with the help of Heights Councilman Bill Gaughan, tried to give him the slip.

When Diaz briefly wandered down the hallway, Gaughan waved on Flood and Flood II to dart from behind closed doors and toward an exit door.

Diaz and crew gave chase. Down the second-floor steps. Out the back door.

Flood and Flood II jumped

"If anything happens to my mom behind this I'm going to sue all of you."

PHILLIP FLOOD II
WILLIE FLOOD'S SON

into a car, with Flood taking the driver's seat. But once seated, the 68-year-old Flood appeared out of breath with her head slumped on the steering wheel.

"If anything happens to my mom behind this I'm going to sue all of you," Flood II yelled at Diaz. "How could you treat an old lady like this?"

Diaz shot back, "No one told her to run. She is a public official. Why doesn't she just answer the questions?"

Flood II made his way around the car to do the driving, while his mother/boss slid into the passenger's seat while drawing her fur coat up to cover her face from the camera.

Flood recently hired her son as council aide, for \$15,000 a year, and as a data processing systems programmer in the Hudson County Register's office, for \$38,000 a year.

Flood II's marijuana pinch was downgraded to a disorderly persons offense and referred to Jersey City Municipal Court, where on July 19, he pleaded guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia and was hit with \$700 in fines. According to state officials, he repaid the \$13,000 in unemployment and agreed to pre-trial intervention, avoiding a guilty plea.

Flood didn't return phone calls yesterday and never returned to Wednesday night's council meeting. Diaz's feature report is expected to air next month.

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