

# Mandel starts new job today —not for city

## Employment to give ex-governor easier halfway house hours

By Karen Hosler  
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Former Governor Marvin Mandel begins work today at a full-time job that will allow him maximum freedom during the remaining nine days he spends at a federal halfway house in Baltimore.

The position Mr. Mandel landed yesterday after at least one job interview and apparently other consultations is not the post he was offered in the city's budget department, but no other details were available last night.

Mr. Mandel refused to speak to reporters last night at the Volunteers of America halfway house on Boston street, where he returned about 5 p.m. His telephone calls were screened by staff members at the facility who deflected those from the press at Mr. Mandel's request.

Dennis Sharoky, program director at the halfway house, said he could not provide details of the former governor's new employment without Mr. Mandel's permission. Mr. Sharoky confirmed, however, that the newly freed prison inmate would not have to report to the halfway house tonight until 10 p.m.—a privilege granted to those residents who have secured full-time employment.

Arnold Weiner, Mr. Mandel's attorney, said shortly after the former governor's return Friday evening from a Florida prison that his client would probably turn down the city job in order to find something closer to his home outside Annapolis.

Bruce Bereano, another attorney who helped win for Mr. Mandel a presidential commutation of the remaining five months of his three-year prison term, said yesterday that the former governor has abandoned his attempt to transfer from the Baltimore halfway house to the Anne Arundel County Detention Center in Annapolis.

"He didn't want to further impose on the federal Bureau of Prisons," Mr. Bereano said. "And things have worked out very satisfactorily for him at the halfway house. He was a little worried at first, but he found out it's not that bad there."

After returning to the halfway house Sunday night following a weekend at home, Mr. Mandel left again early yesterday morning and spent at least part of the day visiting with friends.

Yesterday morning, for example, he paid a call on Irvin Kovens, a longtime friend, chief political fund-raiser for the former governor and one of Mr. Mandel's five co-defendants in the federal political corruption trial that led to prison terms for both men.

Mr. Kovens, who was released from prison last year for health reasons after serving six months of his three-year sentence, now considers himself a Florida resident but returns frequently to Baltimore, where he still has business interests.

Mr. Mandel was originally supposed to report back to the halfway house yesterday at 3 p.m. but was granted an extension to attend a late-afternoon job interview.

George Piendak, the city budget director, who had offered Mr. Mandel a job Friday in his office, said yesterday that he had not been informed that the former governor turned him down.

"But since he didn't show up today, I'm assuming that's the case," Mr. Piendak said.