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AG "surprised" Gov. Cuomo shut down anti-corruption commission so fast

BY [KEN LOVETT](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Thursday, April 24, 2014, 1:22 PM

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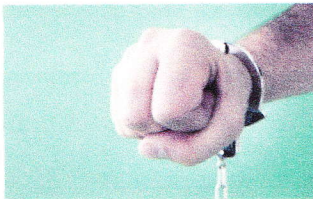
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That didn't last long.

Gov. Cuomo's decision to pull the plug on his anti-corruption commission took Attorney General Eric Schneiderman by surprise.

Cuomo said he made the decision in exchange for the Legislature agreeing to ethics reforms in the final state budget enacted in late March.

"I was a little surprised that it shut down so quickly," Schneiderman said at the Crain's New York Business breakfast Thursday.

He noted that technically the commission is still alive since Cuomo has yet to formally withdraw the executive order that created it.

But despite having appointed various members, deputizing all its members, and making staff available to the commission, Schneiderman said he was not aware of its internal workings, including complaints of interference from Cuomo's office.

He would not comment directly if any cases from the commission were referred directly to his office.

Schneiderman did note that Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara is going through the panel's files to see if there are any unresolved leads that should be followed. Bharara has criticized Cuomo for shutting down the commission before its work is done.

"I have a great working relationship and a tremendous respect for the US attorney from the southern district," Schneiderman said. "He's now looking at a lot of documents and I'm sure if he can back up what he said, he'll back it up."