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## Governor Chris Christie on James Comey as potential nominee for FBI Director...

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Governor Christie served as U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey at the same time Jim Comey was serving as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and then Deputy U.S. Attorney General under Attorney General John Ashcroft. Governor Christie consulted frequently with Mr. Comey on Department of Justice matters. The Governor had this to say about Mr. Comey today, and also recalled an interesting anecdote about their encounters:

"Jim Comey was an outstanding U.S. Attorney and served as Deputy Attorney General with distinction. I have never served with anyone with greater integrity or a better sense of the unique obligations and opportunities presented by true public service. The FBI and America would once again be well served by his strong and honest leadership." – Governor Chris Christie

### ***"It's hard to hate up close" – Jim Comey***

Governor Christie has frequently cited in public that signature piece of advice from Mr. Comey. Here's one of those instances, at a town hall meeting in Howell, NJ, on September 12, 2012:

"I had an old boss at the Justice Department when I was U.S. Attorney who came to visit me one time and I said what are you doing after you visit me, and he said I'm going to the *New York Times* editorial board. I said you're John Ashcroft's Deputy Attorney General and you're going to the *New York Times* editorial board? Do you have a death wish? And he looked at me and he said, "No, Chris, I look at this completely differently. I'm going to the *New York Times* editorial board **because it's harder to hate up close.**" That's something that got told to me in 2003, and for the last nine years I've tried to live my life that way, that I'm exposing myself now more to teachers, talking more to teachers directly because I know that if they hear me on this (education and pension reform), it's harder to hate up close. It's harder to caricature somebody from two feet away, much easier from 200 yards away, right?"

And another, here, from a town hall in Ocean City, on July 25, 2012.

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