NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

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TAKING CHARGE

How do you think Mayor Giuliani is handling the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center?

Excellent	62%
Good	29%
Fair	7%
Poor	1%
Unsure	1%

Which mayoral candidate do you think will be best able to lead the city after the Trade Center attack?

Green	21%
Ferrer	16%
Vallone	15%
Bloomberg	11%
Hevesi	7%
Unsure	28%

Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

Candidates tiptoe around resuming race

By JOEL SIEGEL
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One of the four Democratic mayoral candidates tried gently yesterday to resume the campaign that was halted by the terrorism at the twin towers — but a rival quickly criticized him for doing so.

The stirrings in the mayoral race occurred amid conflicting signals whether Tuesday's primary might be postponed a second time.

Gov. Pataki spoke by phone to at least two of the candidates to ask whether they would accept another delay, aides to the campaigns said. A spokeswoman for Pataki, Molly Fullington, said she had no knowledge of the calls.

A Brooklyn federal judge, however, rejected a request by nine City Council candidates to postpone Tuesday's voting.

District Judge Leo Glasser said the plaintiffs failed to prove that too many New Yorkers don't know the primary was moved to Tuesday. Still, he urged the Board of Elections to broaden its effort to publicize the balloting.

Several of the Democratic candidates said it would be wrong to postpone voting. Proceeding with the election sends "a powerful message" to the terrorists that Democracy can't be halted, mayoral candidate Controller Alan Hevesi said.

The polls had been open for three hours Sept. 11 when the terror attack occurred, prompting a judge to halt voting and the mayoral candidates to suspend all campaigning.

Yesterday, mayoral hopeful Mark Green, the public advocate, proposed the creation of a powerful city-state commission to oversee rebuilding New York.



Mark Green

It was the first act that resembled electioneering by any of the mayoral candidates since the terror attack, and Green said he felt "awkward" doing it.

"It is a unique quandary. You don't want to do anything explicitly political, nor have I," he said.

"But at the same time I have a special obligation to say where I think the city could be headed next year in order to rebound, regroup and rebuild. I admit it's a tightrope, and I hope I stay on the tightrope."

Green's decision prompted a rebuke by Republican mayoral candidate Michael Bloomberg.

"Mike doesn't think this is a time for proposals," said Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler. "This is the time to support the mayor, the governor and the President while they lead us through this extraordinarily challenging period."

All of the candidates find themselves in a unique political environment, unable to aggressively campaign even though the issues facing the city and the qualities needed in a mayor have changed dramatically since the terror attacks.

And they are being increasingly overshadowed by Mayor Giuliani's skyrocketing popularity and a clamor to repeal term limits so he can stay in office.

Trying to find a way out of the dilemma, the six major candidates have agreed to participate in two TV shows on Sunday.

Each taped an eight-minute address yesterday to be shown in an hour-long special at 11:30 a.m. on WNBC-TV. They taped separate, nine-minute question-and-answer segments to be shown on WABC-TV at 11 a.m.

But a proposal for a more free-wheeling forum with all of the Democrats on the same stage at the same time, to be taped and shown tomorrow on NY1, split the candidates. Council Speaker Peter Vallone deemed it inappropriate and declined to participate. The forum will be held with the remaining three Democrats, Hevesi, Green and Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer.

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