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MAYOR GIULIANI
Extension unlikely, too.

Giuliani scuttles bid to run for 3rd term

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Facing a roadblock in Albany, Mayor Giuliani pulled the plug yesterday on his improbable candidacy for a third term, on the Conservative Party line.

The mayor also appeared resigned to the long odds against his request for a 90-day extension to provide a smooth transition.

"I'm available to do the transition I offered to do," Giuliani said, taking time from a meeting with President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia to tend to local politics.

"If other people support that, fine," the mayor said, referring to the reluctant Democratic-controlled state Assembly, which has indicated it wouldn't go along with an extension.

"If they don't support it, well, they don't. I'm not going to get them to do it."

Giuliani also revealed calling Conservative Party leader Mike Long to say he was no longer interested in pursuing a last-minute bid for a third, four-year term.

Meanwhile, Republican mayoral hopeful Mike Bloomberg got a boost on the campaign trail when he was invited to a private meeting with President Bush, Gov. Pataki and Giuliani before the four attended a Big Apple business leaders' meeting about the city's future.

"I tried to explain to [Bush], which I am sure he's heard from plenty of others, my views as to what the city needs," Bloomberg said. "I thought that he's done a great job so far, and I commended him on that.

Bloomberg also was endorsed by Republican Assemblyman Robert Straniere, who had backed Herman Badillo in the GOP primary.

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