NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2001

Rudy revives extension bid

Says it's realistic because Green, Bloomberg OKd plan

By DAVE SALTONSTALL
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

With the Democratic runoff over, Mayor Giuliani tried to jump-start his stalled bid to extend his term by 90 days, arguing yesterday the idea remained "realistic."

Appearing on Howard Stern's radio show, the mayor said that because both remaining candidates — Democrat Mark Green and Republican Mike Bloomberg — had endorsed his bid to stay in City Hall until Apr. 1, it should be reconsidered.

Although there was continued resistance in the Democrat-led Assembly in Albany, the mayor said he hoped state lawmakers would have a change of heart.

"Mike [Bloomberg] and Mark Green both agreed with the idea of a three-month additional transition," Giuliani said. "And maybe we can still convince the Democratic state legislature to go along with it now that the two candidates agreed to it."

The lone holdout to the idea among mayoral candidates, Democrat Fernando Ferrer, lost to Green in Thursday's runoff.

Even with the candidates' support, state lawmakers would have to approve any extension of the mayor's term, which ends Dec. 31.

Randy Mastro, a former deputy mayor to Giuliani and now a private lawyer, worked to build support for the idea by trying to rally city business and religious leaders.

"It makes sense in these trying times to have a longer period of transition, and for our city to come together," Mastro said.

No evidence of change

David Levinson, vice chairman of real estate brokerage

CITY_21MC100_01183096 2

NYC-WTC_000413366

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

giant Insignia ESG, said he had been contacted by Mastro early yesterday but had long supported the idea of a term extension.

"People are getting hung up on tampering with the system, which I can appreciate, but this is such an extraordinary circumstance," Levinson said.

But there was no evidence that the political calculus had changed much in Albany, where most Democratic lawmakers are thought to view Giuliani's effort as either a dangerous precedent or, worse, a shameless power grab.

"I think the majority, the vast majority of the members oppose it," Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) said yesterday at a rally for Green. "And I don't think anything has changed."

Silver estimated last weekend that the term extension idea was opposed by about 85% of the 99 Democrats in the 150-member Assembly. So if all 51 Republicans supported the extension, 11 more Democrats would have to back Giuliani for the measure to have the support of a majority.

State Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno and Gov. Pataki support the idea, so passage in the Assembly is the only obstacle.

Candidates' supportive

Green and Bloomberg continued to express support for the idea yesterday.

"I did and I do support that idea," Green said. "But since Albany legislators have basically indicated they will not be considering that change, I'm now focusing on running to win and planning a transition for what will be Jan. 1."

Bloomberg added, "It is a good idea, and particularly a good idea now, when because of the calamity we had on Sept. 11, the transition is infinitely more complex."

With Lisa L. Colangelo and Celeste Katz