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Green Backer: No 'Giuliani II'

Speakers slam rival Bloomberg

By Dan Janison
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Mayoral front-runner Mark Green yesterday stood with backers at church pulpits and a hospital podium as they slammed Mike Bloomberg for huge campaign spending and his presumed similarity to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Green focused most of his statements on city aid for poor children and messages echoing those of other Democrats he beat in the primary.

But Assemb. Clarence Norman Jr., the Brooklyn Democratic chairman, told parishioners at the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights: "We recognize we must be united because Mike Bloomberg is no joke."

"I don't know about you, but I don't want to have a Rudy Giuliani *II*" at City Hall, Norman said, drawing applause from the mostly black congregation where his father, Clarence Norman Sr., is pastor.

Norman said Green "had nothing to do" with what some considered racially provocative fliers ridiculing the Rev. Al Sharpton's primary support of Fernando Ferrer. "I know because I was in his campaign," Norman said.

Ferrer, the Bronx borough president, won most of the Latino and African-American vote in the primary – a fact Bloomberg, a billionaire Republican, now looks to capitalize on.



Newsday Photo / Nelson Ching

Democratic mayoral candidate Mark Green, talking with potential voters at a cultural festival in Manhattan's Bryant Park, focused on children's issues in statements yesterday.

Green said later of Norman's Giuliani remark: "You'll have to ask him what he meant by it." But Green said he's been supportive of Giuliani for unity's sake, adding, "As you know, I've done it at some political peril."

Green, however, also cited clashes he's had as public advocate with the term-limited mayor.

Later, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan) criticized Arizona Sen. John McCain's support for the media mogul during a partisan meeting in the auditorium of New York University Hospitals Center in Manhattan.

In introducing Green at the Rugby Congregational Church in East Flatbush, state Sen. John Sampson (D-Brooklyn) rebutted Bloomberg's claim that he's the true leader.

Sampson called Green "an elected official who has been elected by the people to lead."

Meanwhile, Green aides dismissed Bloomberg's suggestion that he was dodging debates. Two are scheduled — the same number Bloomberg gave primary foe Herman Badillo — and more would have been mandated had Bloomberg agreed to spending limits, said Green spokesman Joseph DePlasco.

Green's policy theme of the day was his "City for Children." He said nearly half the kids in the five boroughs live in poverty.

Among his proposals: a limit of 20 students per class for kindergarten through third grade; expansion of all-day "beacon" school programs from 80 to 100 sites; expanding quality child care, and offering more services to teens who age out of the foster care system.

There is also a new "First Job" program concept for high school graduates that he said he'll detail later.

Looking to galvanize support from the city's majority party, Green's statements yesterday jibed with his defeated Democratic rivals' slogans.

Like Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Green said he would keep Giuliani's best policies and improve others. Like Ferrer, he emphasized improving schools and child care even if new fiscal straits defer some plans. Like Council Speaker Peter Vallone, he outlined a strategy to help the poorest and sickest, though it does not appear to be as expensive as Vallone's.

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