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Run by Green's Brother, Building Had been Cited

By CHARLES V. BAGLI

For the past 13 years, Stephen L. Green, the real estate executive whose brother, Mark, is the Democratic candidate for mayor, has controlled and operated the 87-year-old office building at which five workers died in a scaffolding collapse yesterday.

The cause of the collapse, at 215 Park Avenue South, at 18th Street, is under investigation. The building is owned by Dever Properties. A company headed by Stephen Green, 215 Park Avenue Associates, leased the building in 1988 from Dever. Another company owned by Mr. Green, S L Green Leasing, is the leasing and managing agent.

On Aug. 1, a city building inspector cited the owner and Mr. Green's company for failing to "maintain an exterior building wall." The inspector said a section of the brick facade at about the 10th floor, on the southeast corner, was cracked and leaning away from the building. It was unclear if that violation was related to the collapse.

According to a statement by Howard J. Rubenstein, a spokesman for Stephen Green, workers were repairing and restoring the building's facade in the rear courtyard at the southeast corner of the building when the scaffolding collapsed.

Mr. Rubenstein said that Mr. Green, his company and the building's owner were cooperating with investigators. He identified the repair company as Nesa Waterproofing Company of Long Island City, although city officials gave variations on that name: Nesa Inc. or Nesa Roofing and Restoration. The companies are all related and based in Queens.

Mr. Rubenstein said the primary concern of Mr. Green and the building's owner "is for the well-being of the workmen injured and the families of the deceased in this tragedy."

Mark Green, interviewed last night after giving a campaign speech outside a Democratic club in Jackson Heights, Queens, said, "It's an awful accident and a tragedy, and my thoughts are with those injured and the families of those who died."

The mayoral candidate said he had put in a call to his brother after hearing about the collapse, but had yet to reach him.

"I'm confident that the Department of Buildings will conduct a full and thorough investigation of what went wrong," he added.

Stephen Green has been a major fund-raiser for his brother, asking other developers, real estate agents and construction companies to contribute to the campaign. In August, the Green campaign said the candidate's brother had helped raise about 12 percent of the $5.8 million in political donations collected by Mark Green up to that point.

Through a real estate company, Stephen Green also leases 25 office buildings to the city, earning more than $10 million a year in rent.

An inspector said part of a facade was cracked and leaning.

The owners of Nesa Roofing and Restoration, Markos Bistakis and the brothers George and Constantine Stamoulis, are listed in city campaign records as having contributed $13,500 to Mark Green's campaign. They also gave money to City Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi, who lost to Mr. Green in the Democratic primary. The contractors did not return calls seeking comment last night.

The New York Post reported in July that Nesa Roofing was suspended from public school construction work in October 2000 after the city Buildings Department began investigating the company's issuance of a rigger's license.

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