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Make media mogul mayor: gov

By MAGGIE HABERMAN and ROBERT HARDT Jr.

Mike Bloomberg got a boost yesterday from Gov. Pataki's endorsement, but Mayor Giuliani made it clear he's taking his time deciding whether to back the media mogul.

Standing with Bloomberg at a waterfront park in Manhattan, Pataki praised Bloomberg's business skills and said he'd be the person to carry on Giuliani's policies.

"We need a strong leader in City Hall and that strong leader is Mike Bloomberg," Pataki said. "He's somebody who knows the city, he knows how to create jobs, he knows how to manage organizations. He's already done it."

While Pataki lined up with Bloomberg but declined to say a bad word about his opponent, Mark Green, Giuliani wasn't itching to get on the Bloomberg bandwagon.

"When I'm ready to do that, then I'll make a decision," Giuliani said at City Hall.

"One of the things that I never let happen is I never let anyone rush me."

Bloomberg also pressed his attack.

But when Bloomberg blasted Green as a "liberal," reporters pointed out that the mogul — who was a Democrat until he switched parties late last year — had once described himself that way.

"I am a liberal, yes," Bloomberg said. "But I am not anti-business and I am not anti-police."

Bloomberg was also hit with questions about his autobiography, which a Green spokesman has quoted to suggest Bloomberg's company invested in South Africa before apartheid had ended.

"This is just the typical racial card. You saw it played before, and here it comes out again," he said, referring to the bitter Democratic runoff.

Mike's 'ad' man isn't even from city

By ROBERT HARDT Jr.

Mark Green yesterday accused Michael Bloomberg of "misleading advertising" for putting a ringer in one of his anti-Green ads — the supposed New Yorker on the street is actually a lawyer from Westchester County.

In the 30-second "man-on-the-street" TV spot that started airing last Friday, attorney Kevin Kitson of Chappaqua is one of four people interviewed on a Bronx sidewalk who praise Bloomberg and criticize Green.

"Mike Bloomberg has proven that he can administrate, that he can organize and he can get things done," says Kitson, a politically active personal-injury lawyer whose office is based in White Plains.

"I think it's a fair question whether these people are paid to come to their points of view," Green said yesterday.

"It would be misleading advertising to portray them as a man on the street in New York when they're not from New York," he added.

Bloomberg defended the ad, saying: "People from all over come to New York City, and what they express, their views, are important."

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