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Green Navigates Brooklyn Bearing Swipes at Bloomberg

By MICHAEL COOPER

Mark Green campaigned across Brooklyn yesterday, strolling through Sunset Park and Borough Park and visiting four predominantly black churches, where he fiercely and repeatedly criticized his opponent, Michael R. Bloomberg.

Mr. Green listened to the harmonies of a gospel choir, visited a kosher restaurant and shook hands with a churros vendor. He traveled with some of his most prominent supporters, including former Mayor David N. Dinkins and former Police Commissioner William Bratton.

And at nearly every step of the way he hammered away at Mr. Bloomberg, at one point waving around a copy of a sexual harassment complaint that was filed against him by a former employee.

Mr. Green began the day at the St. Paul Community Baptist Church in East New York. "My rival is a billionaire Republican who joined four white-only, male-only clubs, and invested in South Africa before apartheid ended," he told the congregation. "I have never quit all-white clubs, because I never joined them."

The comments, with slight variations, were repeated again at other churches: from the Glorious Temple Deliverance Center in East New York to the New Life Tabernacle in Crown Heights to the Greater Rugged Cross Baptist Church in Brownsville. At the Greater Rugged Cross Church, his voice began to grow hoarse, and he wondered aloud how pastors were able to give several sermons a day.

Mr. Dinkins, who got louder ovations than Mr. Green, repeatedly urged people to vote. "People died to give us the franchise, and we have it now, and we ought not squander it," he said after leaving the Greater Rugged Cross Church.

Mr. Green cited Mr. Bloomberg's statement in a sworn deposition that he would need an independent witness to believe an allegation of rape by one of his employees. He told people that his rival was against smaller class sizes and computers in the schools, and even cited Mr. Bloomberg as saying that public school students had poor hygiene. When Mr. Green cited his own record, such as writing a law to protect victims of domestic violence from being fired for missing work or documenting the extent to which poor communities pay more for the same retail goods and services than richer areas, it was to contrast himself with Mr. Bloomberg.

Mr. Bloomberg, apprised throughout the day of Mr. Green's relentless verbal assaults, accused his opponent of smearing him out of desperation because some polls show the race growing tighter.

From the churches, Mr. Green went to Borough Park, where he walked along 13th Avenue on the bright autumn afternoon with Mr. Bratton and a group of Jewish supporters, ducking in to businesses to shake hands and ask for votes. In Borough Park he leveled his harshest criticism against Mr. Bloomberg, where, during a news conference, he brandished a sexual harassment lawsuit that was filed against Mr. Bloomberg and his company, Bloomberg L.P., in 1998 by Sekiko Sekai Garrison, an employee. "Based on her words under oath, he's said things in the workplace that are nearly disqualifying for someone to run for any office, least of all, certainly, mayor," he said.

Reports about the case have surfaced before, but yesterday was the first time Mr. Green seized on its details.

"She said that when she told Michael Bloomberg that she was pregnant, according to her, under oath, he said twice, 'Kill it,' " Mr. Green said. "Because he was tired of having women tell him that they were pregnant and might have to take a leave."

The lawsuit ended in a settlement. Mr. Green called yesterday for Mr. Bloomberg to release the results of a lie detector test he took during the case, and urged him to lift any constraints that were placed on Ms. Garrison as a condition of the settlement so she could speak freely about the case.

After Borough Park, Mr. Green went to Sunset Park, where he toured Fifth Avenue with Angel Rodriguez, a City Council member, and a group of Hispanic supporters. "Green para alcalde (Green for mayor)!" they shouted.

Then he spoke at a Lutheran Church in Coney Island, at a fund-raiser in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and at a Haitian-American town hall in Crown Heights.



James Estrin/The New York Times

On the penultimate day of his mayoral campaign, Mark Green attended Sunday morning services at New Life Tabernacle in Crown Heights.

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