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SQUEEZE PLAY: Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg shakes hands with the Rev. Al. Sharpton last night at a black business gala — a courtesy Mayor Giuliani has never extended to the fiery activist. Robert Miller

Bloomy gives Rev. Al a fair 'shake'

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

Less than 48 hours after his victory, Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg last night did something Mayor Giuliani never wanted to do during eight years in office — shook hands with the Rev. Al Sharpton.

The quick meeting between the city's next leader and the fiery preacher took place at The New York Hilton, during the pre-party for the annual One Hundred Black Men minority-business organization gala.

"Thank you for having me," Bloomberg told Sharpton, as the two pumped hands while several cameras whirred.

"I don't have on my marching clothes yet," Sharpton joked — referring to the frequent protests he led against Giuliani's administration.

"I'll wait until after your inauguration," Sharpton added.

The moment was a sharp contrast to Giuliani's relationship with Sharpton.

Giuliani, who is credited with helping put Bloomberg over the top in the general election against Mark Green, refused to meet with Sharpton during his time at City Hall.

Asked why he was attending the dinner, Bloomberg said, "I have a lot of friends here."

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