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Sharpton-Ferrer flyer flap



Mayoral election is history, and both Mark Green (l.) and Fernando Ferrer (r.) are losers. But battle rages on over cartoon (inset), which sources say Green team members sent out in heat of campaign.

Green campaign did it, 3 Dem sources charge

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Contrary to repeated denials, Mark Green's mayoral campaign distributed the controversial flyers linking the Rev. Al Sharpton to the candidacy of Fernando Ferrer, sources told the Daily News.

The flyers, which warn of Sharpton's influence and show a cartoon depicting Ferrer kissing the behind of an obese Sharpton, were distributed from Green's campaign office in Park Slope, Brooklyn, the sources said.

According to three members of the Democratic Party who supported Green — including a veteran aide — the distribution of the flyers was overseen by Fran Miller, a Green operative who ran the Brooklyn office.

"I saw it when I was there," said one source who visited the office on Ninth St. and Sixth Ave. shortly before the Oct. 11 primary runoff between Green and Ferrer. "I saw only one box [of the flyers] and got disgusted. I walked out."

DAILY NEWS EXCLUSIVE

After Green won the runoff, the campaign forcefully denied any connection with the flyers, which had provoked outrage and cries of racism from Sharpton and the Ferrer camp. Green denounced the flyers and, in a bid to win Ferrer's support, pledged to investigate the matter.

"Mark has made clear from day one that he knew nothing about the distribution," Green spokesman Joe De Plasco said yesterday. "In fact, when the campaign was urged throughout the runoff to raise the Sharpton factor, we refused."

Terry McAuliffe, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, pledged to eject anyone found responsible for the flyers from the Democratic Party.

But the three sources, interviewed separately and repeatedly by The News, insisted that the Green camp was involved.

The Park Slope office was staffed by Miller, who directed the get-out-the-vote drive in southern Brooklyn, and Richard Berg, the brother-in-law of Green campaign manager Richard Schrader.

Stern denial

One source said Miller told him during a conversation in the Park Slope office that the flyers were her idea.

Miller denied ever saying that.

"I wouldn't even know how to create such a leaflet," she told The News on Wednesday. "I had nothing to do with it. I don't recall ever seeing those flyers in the Park Slope office. . . . That's my response to you and to anyone who says I did it."

Berg failed to return several calls seeking comment.

Both Schrader and Jon Kest, Green's director of field operations, said they knew nothing about the Sharpton flyers coming out of the Brooklyn office.

Schrader, who was charged by Green with conducting the inquiry, said no one ever told him the campaign was involved with the flyers.

Schrader said Miller was among the people he had questioned and that he accepted her denial of any involvement in good faith.

Miller, a staffer for state Sen. Tom Duane (D-Manhattan), was hired by the Green campaign about 10 days before the runoff. Previously, The News reported that she had attended a lunch in a Brooklyn seafood restaurant where a plan to highlight the Sharpton-Ferrer alliance was discussed.

The flyers, distributed in Italian and Jewish neighborhoods where Sharpton is disliked, were followed by anonymous phone calls attacking Ferrer's relationship with Sharpton.

Assurances by Green and Schrader that no one from the Green campaign was involved helped persuade a dubious Ferrer to endorse Green.

But four days before the general election in November, against Republican Michael Bloomberg, The News revealed that four Green aides had met with top Brooklyn Democrats and discussed strategies for highlighting Ferrer's ties to Sharpton.

The Brooklyn luncheon meeting took place a week before the runoff, was organized by Miller and included Kest. The discussion included a proposal to use the cartoon, which had been published in the New York Post. The flyers showed up three days later.

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