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Avoiding 'Should Have,' Green Looks Back at Race

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

Emerging from seclusion for the first time since a defeat that his friends said had stunned him, Mark Green yesterday praised the way Michael R. Bloomberg had handled his first month as mayor-elect, saying that he was hiring the same kind of people that Mr. Green might have chosen had he won the race.

In a day in which he gave his first interviews since the election, Mr. Green said he had been defeated because of what he described as a "perfect storm" — a confluence of forces that contributed to his defeat in a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans by five to one.

But Mr. Green, a Democrat who is the city's public advocate, repeatedly declined to offer his own analysis of why he had lost. After a month in which his advisers charged that he had lost because of record spending by Mr. Bloomberg, and criticized key Democrats for accusing Mr. Green of using racially charged tactics, Mr. Green himself repeatedly refused to embrace or rebut any of the criticisms from his camp.

"I think we ran a strong, energized, hard-working campaign to win the nomination, and then hit a series of circumstances that were very hard to navigate," Mr. Green said. The public advocate added that he was not prepared to detail those circumstances, other than to note that in an election so close — he lost by 36,000 votes — it was easy to find reasons for his loss.

"When they asked Mao what he thought of the French Revolution, he said, 'It's too soon to tell,'" Mr. Green said.

Mr. Green appeared fatigued and at times melancholy during the interview with four newspaper reporters, tapping his fingers on a table and jostling a leg as he sat in his sparsely decorated 15th-floor office in the Municipal Building. In about two weeks, he will be out of public office for the first time in more than a decade.

He gave the interview after a month in which a number of Democrats have criticized him for running a campaign that they thought he should have won.

In the interview, Mr. Green held open the possibility that he might run for public office again, though he did not make it sound as if that was a priority. "Never say never," he said, "but right now, the last thing I'm thinking about is running for office."

Mr. Green said that he would seek to remain a voice on the political scene. "I have lost an election, but not my voice," he said. "And I will figure out, and I am optimistic about figuring out, the right venue, to continue my public voice and energy. I am increasingly adopting the ad slogan — are you old enough to remember? — of Timex watch. I took a licking, and I'll keep on ticking."

But he was vague on exactly how he would keep on ticking. "Haven't made a decision yet," he said. "I'll have some portfolio that combines, perhaps, public commentary, running a civic or policy organization. Perhaps teaching. Perhaps advising clients."

Mr. Green would not elaborate on

Lottery Numbers

Dec. 12, 2001

Midday New York Numbers — 725

Midday New York Win 4 — 3370

New York Numbers — 081

New York Win 4 — 8816

New York Take 5 — 7, 18, 22, 23, 33

New York Lotto — 6, 15, 18, 31, 48, 53; supplementary, 26

New York Pick 10 — 2, 6, 7, 13, 17, 18, 20, 28, 39, 46, 48, 55, 59, 61, 62, 66, 68, 78, 79, 80

New Jersey Pick 3 — 374

New Jersey Pick 4 — 0371

New Jersey Cash 5 — 3, 4, 23, 24, 31

Connecticut Mid-Day 3 — 871

Connecticut Mid-Day 4 — 6783

Connecticut Daily — 404

Connecticut Play 4 — 7157

Connecticut Cash 5 — 6, 18, 20, 22, 23

Powerball — 4, 20, 35, 43, 47; powerball, 27

Dec. 11, 2001

New York Take 5 — 2, 6, 16, 5, 18,

New York Pick 10 — 10, 14, 15, 19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, 46, 54, 56, 60, 62, 72, 78

Big Game — 18, 22, 24, 32, 47; big money ball, 2

Connecticut Daily — 051

Connecticut Play 4 — 6251

Connecticut Cash 5 — 12, 20, 30, 31, 34

Connecticut Classic Lotto — 24, 31, 33, 37, 39, 44

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