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N.O.W. AND STEINEM ENDORSE GREEN FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Joined by Staten Island woman who inspired City law authored by Green to protect domestic violence victims in the workplace.

New York – At a press conference at City Hall today, NOW-NYC, the largest women’s rights organization in New York City, with more than 5,000 members locally, endorsed Mark Green for Public Advocate.

Feminist icon and activist Gloria Steinem said in a statement, “Mark Green’s record of real progressive reform and his successful fights for women in particular – helping domestic violence victims in the workplace, changing divorce laws, stopping discriminatory pricing based on gender – show the kind of outspoken Public Advocate he was and should be again.”

"NOW-NYC is proud to endorse Mark Green, who clearly stands out as the candidate with the most skills, accomplishments and vision," said Sonia Ossorio, president of National Organization for Women – New York City chapter. “New York City needs a Public Advocate who understands the struggles women in our city face on a daily basis. Mark Green is that person.”

Some highlights from Green’s record that earned NOW-NYC’s endorsement include:

- His early and persistent work to get RU-486 imported for testing and sale into this country.
- His successful city and now state law protecting the job rights of domestic violence victims in the workplace.
- His expose of -- and law addressing -- the problem of women being overcharged for services because of their gender.
- His pressure forcing municipal hospitals to institute 24 hour rape counseling programs and to create separate intake rooms for rape survivors.
- His report *Women in Divorce* persuaded Chief Justice Judith Kaye to reform how courts treat women in matrimonial cases.
- His legal action against Mt. Sinai’s fertility clinic for misleading young couples that stopped the clinic from misrepresenting the prospect of a live birth.



“Mark Green has an unparalleled track record of making women’s rights a top priority in his administration,” said Jean Bucaria, Deputy Director of NOW-NYC. “As Public Advocate, I have no doubt that he will shed light on discrimination and work to change it, just as he has always done.”

“I am honored to have Gloria’s and NOW-NYC’s support,” said Green. “As the father of a young professional woman, issues of gender equality are not an abstraction to me. I look forward to working with Gloria and N.O.W. when I serve as the next Public Advocate as we tackle violence, advance women in the workplace, promote reproductive freedom, transform women in the media, and secure equality. Today’s endorsement like others is not based on the fact that I ‘fought’ for women or ‘stood up for women’ but that I eliminated abuses and improved their lives. In my view, actions speak louder than words.”

As an example that “actions speak louder than words,” Green and N.O.W. were joined by Rosa Schirripa, the Staten Island woman whose complaint inspired Green to author the City law – and last month now State law – that protects domestic violence victims in the workplace. “When I was about to lose my job because my employer didn’t want someone with an abusive family member, I was desperate,” she said. “Public Advocate Mark Green saved my job, found others in my situation, organized us all together – and then got a City law enacted so no one else would have to suffer like that. And this past July the state government also enacted Mark’s law. Women everywhere should want him back in office fighting for them.”

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