

A Political Attack?

By Michele Parente

STAFF WRITER

Brooklyn police responding to calls of a "man being lynched" on the side of the Belt Parkway early yesterday found a self-proclaimed mayoral candidate tied to a tree, blindfolded and doused with gasoline.

James McMillan, 46, told detectives he was abducted off the streets of Flatbush at about 2 a.m. by four or five men who shoved him in the back of a car, tied his hands and blindfolded him before driving him to a wooded area of the parkway in Sheepshead Bay. McMillan told police the men tied to him to a tree and poured gasoline on him but did not set him afire.

"This was a political attack," said one police source who spoke on the condition of anonymity. McMillan told investigators the attackers alluded to an interview he'd given to the cable station New York 1 on Wednesday. "The suspects made statements indicating

Would-be mayor tied to tree

that the victim was getting involved in issues that he has no knowledge of," the source said.

In campaign literature handed out at an East Side political forum last month, McMillan claims to have "stood alone on the steps of City Hall" on April 7 to announce that he was running for mayor.

McMillan, who is running under the name Jimmy Mack, said in the literature, "I have had it up to here with this system and I can't take any more of this administration. Under protest, I enter the Democratic race for the Mayor of the City of New York."

Police said McMillan, a Vietnam veteran and martial arts expert, was uninjured in the attack.

McMillan, who is not endorsed by any

political party, must file a petition of signatures by July 15 in order to appear on the September primary ballot. Political experts say it is unlikely he would be able to gather enough signatures.

While a police source said anonymous calls to 911 described a man being lynched, the incident has not been classified as a bias incident because McMillan, who is black, described one of his attackers as also being black and said no racial slurs were uttered.

McMillan said he walking near East 28th Street and Flatbush Avenue when a car stopped and the driver, who was alone in the car, asked him directions. While they were speaking, a second vehicle pulled up and four to five men got out and threw him onto the back seat of the car, police said.

McMillan told investigators the attackers alluded to an interview he'd given to the cable station New York 1 on Wednesday.

McMillan said he is running on a platform that will advocate, among other things, protecting the rights of the poor, reducing the city's rents, eliminating funding for welfare hotels in exchange for creating low-income housing, and ending commuter taxes.