

"He told me he liked me and to call him back, which I did," she said.

But she said she didn't like his attitude in later calls.

"He would say, 'I am a breast man. I want a wild woman,' " Green claimed. "I said, 'I don't like this picture.' He felt I was subordinate to him."

If Brooks intended to help her professionally, he didn't need to do it in late-night calls on his personal phone, Green said.

"Why would we talk at 11 o'clock at night? Why would I have his personal number? When things didn't go his way, he got upset with me," she said.

Green said they spoke a few more times on the phone before she confronted Brooks in the office, saying she heard he had a girlfriend.

"He said, 'I saved your job.' He said, 'They want to get rid of you. I can hire you, and I can fire you, and you can sue to get your job back.' "

The calls ended in October 2008, Green said, but she claims Brooks continued walking past her desk and making harassing comments.

On Thursday, Boswell denied that he quashed the investigation into Green's complaint to protect Brooks. The two men are among the few African Americans in Daley's Cabinet.

Boswell is serving a 30-day suspension for allegedly mishandling an intern's sexual harassment claim against a 911 Center deputy. He has filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn his suspension.

"I'm not here to protect anyone. I'm here to do a job. If we had jurisdiction, we would have taken appropriate steps. We had no jurisdiction in the matter," he said.

Boswell argued that his office's sexual harassment jurisdiction was shifted to the Department of Human Resources in July 2008 and not returned to the Office of Compliance until late October 2009.

'Highly unusual'

But a former assistant commissioner in the Office of Compliance who handled Green's November 2008 complaint told a different story.

The deputy, who asked that her name not be used, concluded there was enough evidence -- based on Green's allegations and the cell phone records she produced -- to warrant a full-blown sexual harassment investigation. Yet the deputy claims that Boswell killed the investigation in May 2009 to protect Brooks.

"I thought it was highly unusual that a commissioner was calling a payroll auditor with the frequency that he did: 10 to 15 times until she told him she was not interested. I thought it needed to be investigated," the assistant commissioner said.

"Boswell said, 'No. That's my boy. I don't think it's proof enough.' I told him, 'You can't make a determination. Everybody has a right to file a charge. It needs to be investigated.' He refused. He voiced a personal relationship with Brooks."

She said she stopped Green's proposed layoff when she determined it was not based on seniority.

The deputy added, "They subsequently confiscated all my records and had police escort me out of the office and told me I no longer worked there. I needed to go back to Human Resources," where she now works as an assistant commissioner in that department.

Last month, Daley upheld Inspector General Joe Ferguson's recommendation that Boswell be suspended for 30 days for allegedly mishandling an intern's sexual harassment complaint against a 911 Center deputy for whom Boswell already was advocating on a separate personnel issue.