

Ads

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According to the ad, "We are extremely pleased that the committee declined to find any wrongdoing on behalf of Nelson. Just like past political complaints filed against area Republicans, which the committee reviewed and later dismissed, we expect the same exact outcome here. It is time to move on and the Adelizzi-Schmidt team should be embarrassed by their negative campaign."

Bramnick said he was "surprised" at Van Drew's comments in the ad, and called on the senator to apologize.

Van Drew was never quoted in the advertisement.

"This is like in the middle of a jury deliberations putting out an article saying that the defendant was not found guilty, even though the jury deliberations haven't finished. Obviously, this ethics complaint against Assemblyman Albano is disturbing to the senator (Van Drew) because what he's done here is done everything to indicate that this guy was found not guilty when the hearing hasn't started yet," Bramnick said.

Fiocchi said Albano should be held to a "higher standard."

"This isn't about asking for relief on a ticket. This is about lying on official letterhead what happened at a stop, attempting to damage the career of a young state trooper who has a wife and children. If it had not been for a camera on the police cruiser, who knows how this young man's career would have been affected," Fiocchi said.

Gabor, whose husband is a retired state police trooper, called the issue "personal" and the ad "reprehensible."

"It's also offensive to anyone in the public who has

elected officials representing them and now feel that they are not to be held to the same standards as everyone else and they show a total abuse of power and their running mates feel that it's okay," Gabor said.

Adelizzi-Schmidt questioned whether Van Drew shares culpability for Albano's letter to Fuentes, and was Albano's "chief apologist."

"It clearly shows to me that this is an abuse of power on the senator as well and I think he needs to come clean in terms of what he knew about this letter from the get-go," Adelizzi-Schmidt said.

Allison Murphy, Van Drew's chief of staff, said the ad is accurate because the ethics commission could have found Albano guilty that day, but didn't.

"They accepted jurisdiction and you have to accept jurisdiction to eventually dismiss. It lays out they accepted jurisdiction right in the ad. I stand by the ad. I wrote the ad. I don't know why they say Jeff was quoted in the ad because they're my words. It doesn't anywhere say Jeff was quoted," Murphy said.

"Frankly, I find it laughable our opponents can keep a straight face while throwing out these accusations. They've distorted the truth, been manipulative the entire campaign."

Murphy pointed to a GOP radio ad from the Senate Republican Majority Committee mimicking a press conference where Van Drew admits guilt to raising taxes on middle class. The ad edits sound bites from earlier Van Drew interviews, arranging them to sound if Van Drew approves of tax hikes.

"Quite frankly I think we tax too much and I've been around in the Legislature

for 11 years. There's always an excuse to increase taxes, always a reason taxes have to go up, always a reason we have to increase fees on folks or increase taxes on folks or increase surcharges," Van Drew said in the ad.

The announcer concludes: "There you have it, ladies and gentlemen, Jeff Van Drew in his own words finally coming clean on raising taxes. After a decade in Trenton, even Jeff Van Drew sounds like another typical politician."

Murphy called the radio ad the latest attack from Van Drew's opponents.

"I didn't have a press conference to whine about what they did, but it was a completely false, inaccurate and untruthful attack, and now they have the nerve of accusing me of being misleading when I clearly spell out where we are in the process," Murphy said.

She said the newspaper ad was meant to counter Republican ads claiming Albano is the subject of a "full-blown investigation" and criticizing Albano for being unethical.

"They whine every time we do something, so I'm not going to stop putting stuff out just because they whine about it all the time," Murphy said.

Murphy said Van Drew wasn't involved in Albano's letter to Pangborn.

"Did anyone talk to Jeff about it beforehand? No. He didn't know anything about it," Murphy said. "It's ridiculous. They are just grasping at straws."

She said she wants an issue-oriented campaign, one free from personal attacks.

"I'm not going to go down into the sewer with these people," Murphy said. "I'm not going to respond to every

time they have a hissy-fit."

The ad mentions a handful of Republican lawmakers who were the subjects of state ethics investigations including Senator Diane Allen (R-Burlington), Senator Kip Bateman (R-Somerset), Assemblyman John Amodeo (R-Atlantic) and Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini (R-Monmouth).

Allen, in a Sept. 25 letter to Van Drew, noted her disappointment her name was used in the ad, calling it "wholly irresponsible."

"The fact of the matter is that the ethics committee received and dismissed a complaint against me on the same exact day, citing a lack of evidence to warrant proceeding further. Whereas, in the Albano case, the same committee took a completely different action. Instead of dismissing the complaint due to lack of evidence, they unanimously decided that further investigation into the Assemblyman was warranted," Allen wrote.

Allen wrote that Van Drew has "played fast and loose with the facts" in the campaign, and urged him to take a positive tone in the future by focusing on taxes, jobs, healthcare and education.

Murphy said including the names of politicians whose ethics complaints ultimately ended with the commission not finding wrongdoing proves a point.

"They (the ethics committee) accepted jurisdiction and ultimately it was dismissed. I'm just pointing out that it happens all the time and they're acting like it never happens," Murphy said.

Republicans are also fuming over a website, www.bad-businessrecord.com, created by The Fund for Jobs, Growth

& Security, a PAC supporting New Jersey Democratic candidates. According to the website, the State of South Carolina placed nearly \$84,000 in tax liens on Adelizzi-Schmidt's company, and that she has been charged interest nine times for failing to pay property taxes on her home and seven times for a rental property.

Adelizzi-Schmidt addressed the accusations in a letter to the editor.

"The truth is that there are no tax liens against my small business and I have always paid my personal taxes. Worse, the attack on my parent's business, where years ago I was an employee with no ownership stake, is desperate and weak," Adelizzi-Schmidt wrote.

A spokesman with the Adelizzi-Schmidt campaign said the \$84,000 in tax liens were from a business belonging to Adelizzi-Schmidt's father.

"She never owed a single dime of it. She never owned the business. Did she pay her taxes late a couple times? Yeah, but it was in the low dollar amounts in terms of the interest she had to pay. Everybody's missed a payment once or twice in their life. It's not a reason why they can't lead or represented south Jersey," the campaign spokesman said.

The site also accuses her of "raking in hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer money" when she was contracted for maintaining websites and running communications for Greater Wildwoods Tourism Improvement and Development Authority. According to information provided, Adelizzi-Schmidt's company, Susasion Communications earned \$337,207 from the tourism authority from 2008 to 2013.

"She was contracted. It's all above board. She went through the whole bidding process," the campaign spokesman said. "It's just like saying anybody that gets a paycheck is evil because the money's coming from the government."

Murphy said the Van Drew campaign is legally forbidden to collaborate or communicate to The Fund for Jobs, Growth & Security.

"It's the first I've heard of it," Murphy said, adding the PAC's campaign against Adelizzi-Schmidt is "negative."

The Adelizzi-Schmidt spokesman said Van Drew's campaign should tell the PAC to remove the ads.

"It's just misdirection on their part to say that they can't do anything about it. They don't want to do anything about it," the campaign spokesman said. "They can wash their hands of it and it's somebody else doing it."

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Mayor

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Stanger said an MRI revealed some herniated disks and stenosis, and that another surgery is inevitable.

Stanger said he thought he and the Board of Commissioners, which includes Deputy Mayor Anita vanHeeswyk and Commissioner Robert Moffat, worked extremely well together.

"Right after I was elected, in reflecting on what I saw in a previous commission, I found we could disagree but not be disagreeable," Stanger said. "And we didn't always agree, but we understood one another's position and we would make a decision and move on."

vanHeeswyk has assumed the role of acting mayor until the next election unless the commissioners choose someone else to fill the position.

"It's very clear that we are very sorry Skip had to resign. We wish him good health and

thank him for experience and expertise in legal field brought to Cape May Point," vanHeeswyk said.

Borough Clerk/Administrator Kim Hodson issued a press release saying under the Walsh Act, a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners may temporarily be filled by an appointment made by the two remaining commissioners. She said it was too late to get a candidate placed on the Nov. 5 ballot in the General Election, and whoever is appointed would serve until the next General Election in November 2014. The borough announced that a temporary appointment would be made at the next Borough Commission Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m.

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