Dem pleads skid conflict; undercover features Matillauskis vs. Melendez
By Rachel Shapiro
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Democrats M. Recchia Jr. may have been a no-show at a debate in Brooklyn Tuesday night but that didn’t stop Rep. Michael Grimm (R-Staten Island/Brooklyn) from taking jabs at the Democrat’s voting record and Recchia’s attacks on the congressman.

The Bay Ridge Community Council sponsored the event—which included debates between Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn) and her Democratic challenger, Marybeth Melendez, as well as Republican Brooklyn Sen. Marty Golden and his Democratic challenger James Kennebrew—at Holy Angels Catholic Academy.

Grimm has sought to align Recchia with Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio, who has a 25 percent approval rating on Staten Island, and President Barack Obama. He said Recchia’s votes in the City Council have shown he is too liberal.

“He voted with Mayor de Blasio 99 percent of the time when they were in the City Council together. OK, so if you believe the Brooklyn Bridge should have an $8 toll, that’s what he voted for,” said Grimm.

The congressman had the stage all to himself Tuesday and looked to connect himself to President Ronald Reagan, while slamming Recchia for voting in favor of extending term limits.

“He doesn’t care what you think about term limits, and he proved that when he voted to extend term limits,” Grimm said of Recchia. “…He people voted on term limits twice but my opponent said, ‘No, I’m going to have a third term.’”

The Recchia campaign said their man was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

“It’s convenient that Michael Grimm found time in his schedule to make an appearance in Brooklyn tonight to save political skin after he’s been missing in action from his official duties, including a significant press conference yesterday regarding Sandy funds,” Recchia spokesperson Sarah Weinstein said in an emailed statement.

The two candidates are scheduled to debate on Oct. 22 at an event sponsored by the Iron Hills Civic Association.

In their debate, Ms. Malliotakis and Ms. Melendez agreed on many issues. Both believe the city needs more affordable housing, and that litter is an issue that needs to be addressed with education. They agreed that the relationship between the community and the NYPD could be better and that there needs to be improved cooperation and outreach.

But they disagreed on others. Ms. Malliotakis opposes increasing the minimum wage in New York City—“That’s bad fiscal policy” because it punishes one municipality against another—whereas Ms. Melendez said it’s important to do it for people who are living paycheck-to-paycheck.

**STATEN ISLAND**

**Grimm campaign gets 100 boost**

By Tom Wroblewski

A conservative Washington PAC that gets major funding from labor unions and tiers against Tea Party Republicans is making a $200,000 independent expenditure on behalf of Rep. Michael Grimm (R- Staten Island/Brooklyn), federal records show.

According to Federal Election Commission records, the Defending Main Street PAC will spend the money on “field work” for the congressman.

“We defend our members who are in tough races,” PAC chief operating officer Sarah Chamberlain told the Advance. “He is one of our members.”

She said the field operation would send people into the district to knock on doors and get them out to vote for Grimm.

The independent expenditure was first reported by NY1.

“It is the first such expenditure on behalf of Grimm, who said he is running free and clear as a result of a 20-count federal indictment while national Democrats have spent heavily to boost his opponent, Democrat Domenic Recchia.

When asked if the PAC was concerned about the Grimm indictment, Ms. Chamberlain said, “We defend our members. This is not the only race I’m in.”

She said that Grimm had been a member of Defending Main Street since coming to Congress.

**Reach across the aisle**

“Is this part of the story that hasn’t been told. How much support I do have,” Grimm told NY1. “They are looking for members that can still have the Republican principles and values but reach across the aisle and get results, and there is no question I have done that.”

Grimm’s office declined to comment further on the Ad on the Ad, stating there was no Ad on the Ad.

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property taxes ill 5.5 percent to income taxes, and to add even more tolls on our bridges,” Grimm said.

Grimm added, “He’s re-fusing to debate me because he’s afraid that the soon-to-be middle-class Staten Islanders and Brooklynites discover his record is in lockstep with the ultra-leftist dream team of Bill de Blasio, Nancy Pelosi, and Barack Obama, the same people they will send him packing.”

The Recchia campaign said that Grimm couldn’t attend the debate because of a scheduling conflict, and that Grimm’s record is in lockstep with the ultra-liberal dream team of Bill de Blasio, Nancy Pelosi, and Barack Obama, the same people that Grimm wouldn’t send him packing.

**Our families are sick and tired of a congressman who… focuses on his federal indictment rather than their needs.**

Domenic Recchia

“His record is in lockstep with the ultra-liberal dream team of Bill de Blasio, Nancy Pelosi and Barack Obama,” Rep. Michael Grimm.

For failing to attend a press conference on Monday at Whittall Ferry Terminal that teamed federal spending for new storm-reinforcing ferry boats and flood-proof the Whitall and St. George ferry terminals.

“The people of this district deserve a leader who will fight for them every moment of every city, and deny his party’s legal problems that he neg-lects critical announcements and meetings for Staten Island and Brooklyn,” Recchia said.

He pointed to Grimm’s missing a Sandy-related meeting hosted by Demo-cratic Mayor Bill de Blasio earlier this year. Grimm said he was no value in attending.

That same night, he attended a fundraiser for the Action Team-bate concert, but his staff said he told the group not to attend the concert.

Said Recchia, “Our working families are sick and tired of a congressman who plays party politics and focuses on his federal indictment rather than their needs.”

Grimm couldn’t attend the press conference because of a scheduling conflict.

Instead of attending press conferences in Manhattan to put himself on the back, Rep. Grimm is more interested in holding Build It Back ac-countable, getting back to the crucial acquisition for redevelopment program, and working with the Army Corps of Engi-neers on reilly metrics for our beaches and shorelines,” said Grimm spokesman Nick Iacomo.