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STATEN ISLAND

Grimm and Recchia spar from afar

Congressman and Dem challenger clash over debate, Sandy no-shows

By Tom Wroblewski
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Tuesday was a day of no-show accusations in the heated race for Congress between GOP Rep. Michael Grimm and Democratic challenger Domenic M. Recchia Jr.

Grimm (R-Staten Island/Brooklyn) slammed Recchia for not meeting him mano-a-mano at a debate in Brooklyn on Tuesday night.

Recchia, meanwhile, hit at Grimm for failing to show up at a press conference on Monday where federal and city officials touted money for new storm-resilient Staten Island Ferry boats.

The Bay Ridge Community Council hosted a debate in Brooklyn on Tuesday that Grimm attended but Recchia did not.

"Once again, my opponent is trying to fool the voters by laying low and hoping that no one will find out about his abysmal 12-year record as a Brooklyn councilman where he voted to raise every middle-class tax he could, from

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THE BOROUGH

BAY RIDGE

Flying solo at 'debate,' Grimm bashes rival Recchia

Dem pleads sked conflict; undercard features Malliotakis vs. Melendez

By Rachel Shapiro
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Domenic 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 in-

cluded 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 Kemmerer — 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."

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 in the Council.

"He doesn't care what you think and he proved that when he voted to extend term limits," Grimm said of Recchia. "... the 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 spokeswoman 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 pits 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 100G boost

By Tom Wroblewski
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A conservative Washington super PAC that gets major funding from labor unions and battles against Tea Party Republicans is making a \$100,000 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 expen-

diture on behalf of Grimm, who saw his fundraising dry up as a result of a 20-count federal indictment while national Democrats have spent heavily to boost his opponent, Domenic M. Recchia Jr.

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 Washington in 2011.

'Reach across the aisle'

"This is 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 to the Advance about the independent expenditure.

Campaign

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property taxes 18.5 percent to income taxes, and to add even more tolls on our bridges," Grimm said.

Grimm added, "He's refusing to debate me because he's afraid that the sooner middle-class Staten Islanders and Brooklynites discover his record is in lockstep with the ultraliberal dream team of Bill de Blasio, Nancy Pelosi, and Barack Obama, the sooner they will send him packing."

The Recchia camp said that Recchia couldn't attend the debate because of a scheduling conflict and had previously let organizers know that he wouldn't be there.

"Michael Grimm is facing a 20-count indictment," Recchia said. "This is Michael Grimm again distracting from my good record. I'm ready to debate Michael Grimm. I've said it many times."

Grimm has been indicted on tax evasion, fraud, conspiracy and other charges in connection with his old Healthlicious health food restaurant. He has pleaded not guilty.

Recchia said, "I can't wait to debate Michael Grimm. I have a good record to debate him on, I'm proud of my record. The people of this district are going to be so proud to have a



"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 ultraliberal dream team of Bill de Blasio, Nancy Pelosi and Barack Obama."

Rep. Michael Grimm

congressman that they can be proud of, someone they know will go to Washington and make them proud, not embarrass them."

The two will take part in a debate on October 22 sponsored by the Iron Hills Civic Association.

Recchia criticized Grimm

for failing to attend a press conference on Monday at Whitehall Ferry Terminal in Manhattan that touted federal spending for new storm-resilient ferryboats and to flood-proof the Whitehall and St. George ferry terminals.

"The people of this district deserve a leader who will fight

for them every minute of every day, and isn't so distracted by his legal problems that he neglects critical announcements and meetings for Staten Islanders and Brooklynites," Recchia said.

He pointed to Grimm's missing of a Sandy-related meeting hosted by Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio earlier this year. Grimm said he saw no value in attending. That same night, he attended a fundraising Justin Timberlake concert, but his staff said he didn't skip the meeting in order 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 pat himself on the back, Rep. Grimm is more interested in holding Build it Back accountable, getting back to the crucial acquisition for redevelopment program, and working with the Army Corps of Engineers on resiliency measures for our beaches and shorelines," said Grimm spokesman Nick Iacono.