

***The Public Ought to Know:  
Unrepentant Extremist Robert Friedrich  
Republican-Conservative candidate plays by the Newt-Lott-Cheney-Tea Party book***

February 25, 2010

One month ago *The Public Ought to Know* [exposed](#) failed Assembly candidate Robert Friedrich's out of touch Republican-Conservative radical right wing agenda as part of a cynical attempt to grab an elected office after failing the first three times.<sup>1</sup> It only got worse since. The guy grabbed the Newt Gringrich-Trent Lott-Dick Cheney-Tea Party mantle of lies to try to reverse his sound beating by the voters.

Worse, this extremist wannabe elected and perpetual failed candidate now attacks those who exposed his lies, malfeasance and extremist political views with false attributions, misrepresentations and plain vicious attacks.

It all started with a honest attempt to note to voters positions Friedrich takes and continues to stand for that remain outrageously out of touch with the community he sought to serve. So let me pose this question: Is a neo-Nazi who paints a swastika on a synagogue, a school, the car or home of a Jewish family the same as a kid who tags a subway car? If Friedrich had his way, both crimes would receive the same penalty. That just cannot stand. Crimes that attack because of one's identity are intended to inflict fear on the entire community. Friedrich does not get that. Consultant devised a mailing to expose that Friedrich failing using the most provocative symbolism to make that point.

Friedrich rather than accepting his out of touch position tries to turn the mailing exposing his faulty position on hate crimes into the issue because it uses a provocative symbol of hate. Yet, all too often that hateful symbol has been found on cars and homes<sup>2</sup> and schools<sup>3</sup> in the very community he seeks to represent. The failed extremist candidate then goes on the attack for being exposed as the extremist. He holds a press conference across the street from the building housing my Jewish community council's office with a “blow up” of the mailing with that provocative symbol and focuses on the symbol, misrepresenting who it was mailed to when our campaign clearly disclosed the recipients (Core, reliably Democratic Party-registered voters), and never repeating the text in the mailing which exposes his extremism.

Then – after his sound lashing in the election, he appears during public speaking time set aside for people with government service and related concerns at Community Board 13 – to attack me for defending efforts to expose his wrong position on hate crimes. Friedrich ignored the text in the blown-up mailing. Maybe because the text provided the context for the use of such a provocative symbol: The side with with symbol stated: “Conservative Bob Friedrich doesn't believe Hate Crimes Deserve Special Punishment...”

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1 Friedrich lost the 1982 primary to then NYS Assembly Member Leonard Stavisky, lost twice to Mark Weprin in the 2009 NYC Council primary election and general election and most recently decisively lost in a landslide to David Weprin in the Special Election for the 24<sup>th</sup> A.D.

2 [http://northeastqueensjewish.org/Statements/Releases/2003-04-27\\_condemn\\_vandalism.htm](http://northeastqueensjewish.org/Statements/Releases/2003-04-27_condemn_vandalism.htm)

3 [http://northeastqueensjewish.org/Statements/Releases/1992-12-02\\_condemn\\_slur.htm](http://northeastqueensjewish.org/Statements/Releases/1992-12-02_condemn_slur.htm)

The mailer side stated: “Extremist Bob Friedrich not Right for our community. Republican/ Conservative candidate Bob Friedrich doesn't believe that hate crimes driven by anti-Semitism or bigotry warrant extra tough criminal penalties. When asking the Republican Party's support, he told them “all crimes are hate crimes.” That's outrageous. Friedrich is an extremist Republican who opposes gun control and would restrict a women's right to choose. He is out of touch with our community's values. We need to stop Friedrich and his extremist agenda. How? By voting against Friedrich in the Special Election for State Assembly on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Only if we vote can we stop Friedrich's extremist agenda. Polls are open from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Extremist Friedrich: Bad for Queens. Bad for our Families. Vote NO on Bob Friedrich in the Special Election Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.” Friedrich clearly seems ignorant of the use of the swastika in hate crimes that occurred in the district.

The back of the flyer contained a crime scene not too dissimilar to [incidents](#)<sup>4</sup> that occurred throughout northeast Queens that I [condemned](#) including one painted outside The Glen Oaks School while my son attended it and several painted on cars and a garage in [Hillcrest](#) when Jews observed the Passover.

My stance for stronger Hate Crime legislation reflects my strong my work on the issue. A dozen years ago I issued a [statement](#) supporting Hate Crime legislation and 13 years ago I organized with others a [forum](#) in support of stronger Hate Crimes Laws.

Friedrich and his supporters may not like the above characterization of his self-admitted positions but the overwhelming super majority of the voters in the district and most New Yorkers find those Friedrich position extreme and out of touch.

Friedrich still must answer to our community<sup>5</sup> why he won't support hate crimes legislation.

Once again, Let's look at the [Real](#) Robert Friedrich Republican-Conservative Record:

- Friedrich supports gun policies that ENDANGER our children – and really all of us.
- Friedrich would RESTRICT a Woman's right to choose.
- Friedrich OPPOSES Hate Crimes Legislation.<sup>6</sup>
- Friedrich would CUT pensions for retirees.
- Friedrich CHANGED his position on marriage equality in return for the Conservative line. Both the Queens Tribune and City Hall newspaper exposed Friedrich who lied that he changed his position to the same reporters who were present when he interviewed for the Queens Tribune endorsement for City Council in the Democratic Primary last year.
- Friedrich [lied](#) about support from South Asian community leader, former City Council candidates Swaranjit Singh who later endorsed and signed a letter supporting David Weprin.

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4 Just outside the district, but clearly part of the community, a synagogue was desecrated with that hate symbol; see [http://northeastqueensjewish.org/Statements/Releases/1996-01-29\\_praise\\_NYPD\\_response.htm](http://northeastqueensjewish.org/Statements/Releases/1996-01-29_praise_NYPD_response.htm)

5 The 24th District represents a diverse population including people of many races, nationalities and religious backgrounds who expect their would-be leaders to defend attacks based on one's identification.

6 2009 Republican Party City Council Questionnaire; please see page 6, question 14g

- Friedrich tried to hide his Republican extremism. His own mailings, including those paid for by the REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE NEVER identified Friedrich as the Republican Conservative candidate. Bob you cannot hide; you got exposed. The more you rant, the more you face exposure of your extremist positions and of your many failings. It's your call.
- Friedrich reversed his positions on which party he would conference with in Albany, first stating he would conference with whichever party would best serve the district and later that week committing to conference as a Republican.<sup>7</sup>
- Friedrich SKIPPED most of his Community Board meetings failing to vote on key issues affecting our community and then just quit! The residents of the 24<sup>th</sup> A.D. reject that no-show as their representative in Albany.
- Friedrich shows up at community events when he decides to run for office – wearing his candidate-button; before that he was a RARE PRESENCE at best.
- Friedrich remains under INVESTIGATION for mispending the money of his shareholders, the people he was supposed to represent.
- Friedrich also SELFISHLY uses the resources of the Glen Oaks Village Owner's newsletter, produced and printed by the cooperative corporation, to promote his candidacy.
- Friedrich remains under investigation for MISpending public funds in the last year's City Council election.<sup>8</sup>
- Friedrich FAILED to file the Financial Disclosure report required under NYS Law to the NYS Board of election as of Tuesday, January, 2010 – eleven days late.<sup>9</sup> This would-be public officer who touts his accounting skills perhaps needs some re-education and re-training. See: [http://www.elections.state.ny.us:8080/plsql\\_browser/getfiler2?filerid\\_in=A70375](http://www.elections.state.ny.us:8080/plsql_browser/getfiler2?filerid_in=A70375)
- And if Friedrich had his way, there'd have been no debate at the Glen Oak Campus high school because he OPPOSED it! See (page four, top): [http://www.glenoaksvillage.com/images/2000\\_spring.pdf](http://www.glenoaksvillage.com/images/2000_spring.pdf)
- And on top of everything else, Friedrich does not even live in the district; he lives OUTSIDE district 24 and he knows it and stated such to me (but then he was not a candidate).<sup>10</sup> Maybe he'll deny making contributions to candidates including Senator Frank Padavan and then-Council Member David Weprin where he listed his 26<sup>th</sup> A.D. address. (Just check the NYS Board of Elections and NYC Campaign Finance Board.) Maybe he denies filling out a membership application for a Democratic club with the 26<sup>th</sup> A.D. address – Please deny it Bob so I can produce your application.

As I wrote on January 25, “This Republican-Conservative wannabe needs to Restrain himself in attacking his opponent's campaign manager and raising my community leadership position by title and association – something (even in the body of this letter) I scrupulously keep separate and distinct from any partisan involvements.”

7 At 2/1 TimesLedger/ Queens Chronicle debate: states will conference with either party; 2/5 City Hall: only conference as a Republican. 2/4 Queens Tribune and 2/5 City Hall

8 2009 City Council Campaign

9 See: [http://www.elections.state.ny.us:8080/plsql\\_browser/getfiler2?filerid\\_in=A70375](http://www.elections.state.ny.us:8080/plsql_browser/getfiler2?filerid_in=A70375)

10 See (contact us for more cites): [http://www.elections.state.ny.us:8080/reports/rwservlet?](http://www.elections.state.ny.us:8080/reports/rwservlet?cmdkey=efs_sch_report+p_filer_id=A00417+p_e_year=2009+p_freport_id=K+p_transaction_code=A)

[cmdkey=efs\\_sch\\_report+p\\_filer\\_id=A00417+p\\_e\\_year=2009+p\\_freport\\_id=K+p\\_transaction\\_code=A](http://www.elections.state.ny.us:8080/reports/rwservlet?cmdkey=efs_sch_report+p_filer_id=A00417+p_e_year=2009+p_freport_id=K+p_transaction_code=A)

He goes around attacking me as his opponent's campaign manager for mixing my community involvements when I NEVER mentioned my affiliations and achievements to bolster the now Assemblyman. I never even drafted a personal letter to voters on the Assemblyman's behalf, including in Friedrich's base area where I grew up, my spouse grew up, where my personal support induced the votes on the community board that permitted Glen Oaks residents to build up or down a floor, and where I played and later managed for some 15 years in the little league – not to mention receiving 90% of the votes of those who voted at The Glen Oaks School when I got elected to then Community School Board 26. I did not send even an email urging a generic, non-partisan Get Out The Vote Effort from the synagogues of the community; nor did I direct the organization's executive director to do so (or to make calls) – and such an effort would have clearly benefitted “my” candidate.

Friedrich on the other hand constantly plied the civic leader title even though he leads no civic but presides over a co-op board. Worse, he took actions in the civic mantle attacking his opponent and denying his own candidacy that in fact became so clear—he ran after all.

The State Assembly deals with serious issues and the voters deserved and got better than Robert Friedrich the Republican-Conservative candidate and the radical right wing views his candidacy sought to empower.

– *Corey Bearak*

[Updated 2010-03-01]