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Bob Menendez United States Senator 2012

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2012

Camden's potty-mouthed freeholder

Incumbent Democrat Ian Leonard's execrable public display of expletives related to excrement are adding excitement to an otherwise dull Camden County Freeholder race.

Leonard's rant is now playing on YouTube courtesy of the Camden County GOP, a party that has long been unable to field a winning freeholder candidate, but certainly recognizes good gotcha when it sees it.

A "vulgar display," Tom Crone, political director for the county Republicans, says in an email that helpfully includes a YouTube link.

Crone goes on to excoriate Leonard for a "torrent of venom and foul language," and advises prospective viewers that the clip is "not suitable for decent members of society."

While those words of warning may be a tad, shall we say, excessive, there's no question the pugnacious Leonard crossed a line, and then some. "County residents should spring for a bar of soap," suggests the Save Jersey blog.

Not a bad idea, considering the freeholder's...oration, which apparently was captured by someone in the audience at the September 20 meeting in Lawnside.

"Cut the s--- out or I'll fire your a--," Leonard bellows from the dais.

"I don't really give a s--- what you've done in your life," he says.

"That's bulls---!"

Now, the context of Leonard's...remarks has been edited out of the video; perhaps the freeholder spent the rest of session delighting listeners with a treatise on Tennyson. And while plenty of people use these and other popular expletives in private, Leonard was speaking as a public official.

So he owes the public an apology.

I've reached out to the freeholder, and to county spokespersons.

Stay tuned.

UPDATED 12:06 PM



Is it ever acceptable for a public official to curse in public?

- Yes, depending on the circumstances. No, civility should rule the day. I don't know. I don't give a...

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ABOUT METRO MASHUP

Metro columnist Karen Heller has been an Inquirer staff writer since 1986. She has won national, state and local awards for feature writing, investigative reporting and criticism, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in commentary. E-mail Karen here; read her columns here.

An award-winning columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer, Annette John-Hall's twice weekly metro columns always illuminate. Her topics and storytelling challenge readers to reflect on their own perceptions, to turn off the auto response and forge a different kind of conversation. She has been nominated twice by the Inquirer for the Pulitzer Prize in commentary. E-mail Annette here; read her columns here.

Kevin Riordan's daily newspaper byline debuted in 1972, when he was a child prodigy. He got his first real newspaper job four years later, and joined the Inquirer in 2010. A native of western Massachusetts, he lives in Haddon Heights, NJ. E-mail Kevin here; read his columns here.

Since joining The Inquirer as a staff writer in 1988, Daniel Rubin has reported from 27 countries, but most of them were small. He's a metro columnist and has been the European Correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers. For two years he sat at home and wrote Blinq, the paper's first daily blog. Dan began newspaper work in Norfolk and Louisville, Ky., after getting his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northwestern University. He has lived in all four commonwealths, most recently in Pennsylvania. He teaches urban journalism at the University of Pennsylvania. E-mail Daniel here; read his columns here.

Monica Yant Kinney joined the Inquirer as a suburban reporter in 1996, moved to the City Hall Bureau two years later and was named a metro columnist in 2001 at the age of 30. As a columnist, Kinney speaks to, and for, the curious and infuriated masses, writing often about gun violence, casinos, politics, pop culture and parenting. She logs so many miles reporting in the city, suburbs and South Jersey, she finally bought a Prius. E-mail Monica here; read her columns here.

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Posted by Kevin Riordan @ 8:39 AM Permalink | 10 comments

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Comments



A real class act. — BillyBob369

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 9:26 AM, 10/08/2012

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Newsflash from the Tonner: Always assume you are being videotaped. Every Tom, Dick, and Harry has a cellphone that's also a video recording device these days. That's why they make you check them at the door in strip joints. You're welcome. — hunglikeaton

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Potty mouth, indeed! — Tony Stark

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Whatever happened to good old fashioned swears like hoot and malarkey? — PhillyKen

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Him and Christie should take their act on the road! — The Fundamentals of the Economy are Fine

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Any relation to Collingswood Commissioner Joan Leonard? — Truth B. Told

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As far as politicians are concerned, any publicity is good publicity. — Jacob

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Hmmm.....32 years old. I can't say that I'm surprised. These younger ones can only communicate with vulgarities. If they own a business, they talk to their employees and co-workers that way. The maturity level has continued to drop over the years. — ANGRY AL 2

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Were the GOPs pwecious wittle ears hurt when they heard the big bad man say them bad words??? Awww.... — john titor

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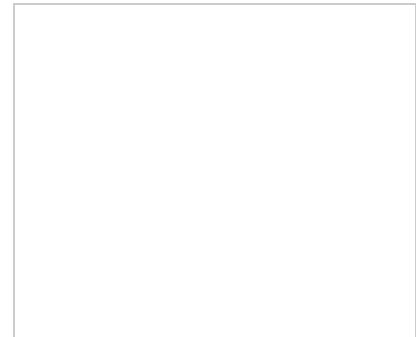
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- Mitt Romney offers best hope of boosting jobs, economy
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