

POLITICAL EMPIRE

News and perspective from Press-Enterprise/PE.com political reporter Jeff Horseman

NEWS

ELECTION 2014: Article describes Steve Adams' 1994 arrest

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Steve Adams

A national magazine on politics has delved into past of Riverside City Councilman and congressional candidate Steve Adams, bringing to light his 1994 arrest in Kansas.

Adams, a Republican and retired police officer challenging Democratic incumbent Mark Takano in the 41st Congressional District, was arrested and charged with committing battery against a woman with whom he had a relationship, [POLITICO Pro](#) reported.

From the magazine (subscription required):

"The charges, which came about two weeks after he filed for divorce, were eventually dropped and scrubbed from Adams' record under a 'diversion' agreement. The agreement put him on probation for a year and required that he abstain from alcohol and undergo anger management counseling."

"Adams, who is running to unseat Democratic Rep. Mark Takano, downplays the previously unreported incident, insisting it was not violent — 'I have never hit any female in my life,' he said."

The magazine described the incident:

"Adams was living in the Kansas City area at the time of his arrest, running a small chemical blending company called Diamond Shield. The incident occurred nearly 10 years after he retired from the Riverside Police Department due to a work-related injury."

"According to court documents filed in Johnson County, Kansas, Adams arrived 'upset' at the home of the alleged victim shortly after midnight on Aug. 5, 1994. She told police that Adams 'threw two glasses on the floor, then shoved her into the dining room and grabbed her by the back of the neck,' resulting in minor injuries to her arm and shin."

"Adams disagreed with that characterization, telling police at the scene that while he had intended to 'physically escort' the woman out of the house to talk, he did not push or grab her. Speaking to POLITICO, he further contended that he did not throw the two glasses but accidentally knocked them onto the ground as he tried to take her outside."

Speaking to The Press-Enterprise, Adams disputed the notion that he grabbed the woman, saying he gently took her by the arm in an effort to discuss a sensitive subject out of earshot of the woman's child.

POLITICO said it learned the incident from a Democratic consulting firm tied to Takano's campaign. Takano campaign spokesman Derek Humphrey was quoted in the article.

"It's disappointing that a candidate for Congress wouldn't be more forthcoming about his arrest record," Derek Humphrey wrote in a statement. 'Adams claims he'll protect public safety, but failed to reveal that he was arrested [on suspicion of] assaulting his girlfriend while still married.'"

Adams told The Press-Enterprise: "It's disappointing that a sitting congressman isn't running on his record. Instead of that, he's trying to find a 20-year-old incident that was dismissed by the courts."



Mark Takano

He described Takano as a "rubber stamp" for President Barack Obama and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi who has done nothing to create jobs, help veterans get proper health care or address the influx of undocumented Central American migrants.

Adams and Takano, a first-term congressman from Riverside, are running in the Nov. 4 election to represent a district that includes Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris and Jurupa Valley. Political prognosticators expect Takano to win re-election in a district where Democrats have the advantage in voter registration.