

Emailed statement from Bob Steinburg to WRAL, Sat. 9/29/12

"After a candidate forum last night, my opponent, Bill Luton, and I were having a private meeting. We were speaking one on one. I thought it was in the community's and our best interest to begin to settle our personal differences privately to save the public from more irrelevant gamesmanship moving forward. The voters in District 1 have a choice between two very different views on who's plan can best help revive our stagnant regional and state economy. Candidate forums like this one, can be helpful in that regard.

During what I believed to be a private conversation, I noticed Bill's campaign manager Russ Haddad secretly recording our conversation. It eventually became clear that they were trying to set me up for a hidden camera "gotcha" moment.

This is no time to play political games but we've seen plenty of them from my opponents campaign thus far, and there are 40 days yet to go. We have record unemployment in North Carolina, with some counties in District 1 exceeding rates of 10 percent and some schools falling short of fully preparing our children for the global job market. This is certainly no time for my opponent to continue to try and score cheap political points.

In regards to the charges from Luton campaign manager, Russ Haddad, they are ludicrous. In an attempt to protect my privacy, I made repeated requests of Haddad to respect a private conversation and to stop filming, but to no avail. I even tried to cover up the camera with my hand and eventually tried to push it away...nothing more.

I have subsequently learned from Democrats that Haddad most recently worked for Congressman G. K. Butterfield. I don't know why he left, because he'd not been there very long. Before that, he worked for the Perdue Administration. He has been described to me by those on both sides of the aisle who know him well as a smooth liberal political hack. He knew exactly what he was doing the other evening.

In hindsight, I should have walked away; but, such are the perils of campaigning in this, quite possibly the dirtiest, nastiest campaign season ever... where to some, winning at all costs, means just exactly that!"