

Subject:**Date:** Wed, 13 Mar 2002 11:45:17 -0800**From:** Ernie Crist <CristE@dnv.org>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

On Monday Mar. 18 - 2002 Council will vote and adopt Bylaw 7301, a Procedure Bylaw introduced by Mayor Don Bell to regulate the general conduct and decorum during Council debate.

Highlights of the Bylaw include references such as no member or person attending the meeting may interrupt a member who is speaking, except that a member may raise a point of order or a question of privilege.

No member or other person attending the meeting may interrupt, cause a disturbance, disrupt or delay the conduct of business.

No member or other person permitted or invited to speak by the presiding member on any matter during the meeting may speak disrespectfully of any other person or use any rude or offensive language or make a statement or allegation which impugns the character of any person.

It further states that - a member, other than the presiding member, who wishes to ask staff questions during a meeting may do so only during the member's allocated speaking time, so as not to disrupt the meeting

The Bylaw also includes a section defining improper conduct. Improper conduct, according to the Bylaw, will be dealt with by the presiding member under options available under the relevant section of the Local Government Act or by resolution of Council.

An accompanying report by the Mayor states that, while the ability exists for the Mayor or presiding member to apply and enforce unwritten but reasonable rules of conduct during meeting, he is recommending that these amendments be formally included in our Procedure Bylaw by resolution of Council to indicate that Council, as a body, supports civility and respect during meetings of Council.

My own and the reaction of many Council watchers however is, that this "new" Procedure Bylaw is totally unnecessary. Such a Bylaw is already in place in the District as indeed it is in all other municipalities. These Bylaws are based on the Local Government Act plus rules of order such as Roberts Rules of Order. So why was it necessary to "invent" a new Bylaw?

The simple answer is that it is part of a smoke and mirror act by the present Mayor to divert attention from a situation he himself has created. If meetings in the District have not been conducted in a business like fashion then it is because of Mayor Bell himself who violated each and every rule in the book. He has used his position as chair to display his biases, violate the speaking order and generally use it as a political tool to divide Council and routinely cause dissension. It was done first and

foremost with intent to discredit dissent and criticism relating to serious shortcomings of his own leadership. This was confirmed in the KPMG and VAT reports, not to speak about the shocking financial reports that have come to light or the illegal dispensation of expense monies without Council's knowledge or the Avalon conflict of interest scandal all of which have occurred and involved Mayor Don Bell.

During the last election Mayor Bell was endorsed by the CCA - a Civic Party formed prior to the election for the sole purpose of preventing the implementation of the District Waterfront Task Force recommendations. The core of the recommendations was, over a period of 50 years, to construct a public pathway along the waterfront, much of which belongs to the public. The idea of a public pathway along the waterfront was so abhorrent to the adjoining residents they spent a large sum of money in an election campaign geared to replace all members of the previous Council who had supported the idea. As a result of misleading and false election material distributed to every household in the District, they elected every single members of the present Council except me.

As for the Mayor - no sooner had the results of the election been announced when in front of witnesses, he stated that, we will now put Crist in his place. Violations of procedure on his part became routine. With the assistance of his CCA pals he prevented even the submission and explanation of motions unless they were seconded by a member of his CCA endorsed Council first. This antidemocratic rule is still in place even though the Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations and various other citizens have objected to it.

Senior staff too were infected. When I suggested that we adopt a Code of ethics Bylaw for Staff it was refused. Providing misleading, incomplete and false information by staff was and is still common while requests for such information are frequently ignored altogether. The owners of cars blocking a driveway and subsequently ticketed were told that it was Councillor Crist, the only none CCA endorsed Council member, who had called the Bylaw Officer and was thus responsible for the ticketing. The campaign against me reached its height when I was removed as Acting Mayor based on concocted allegations that I had harassed staff. This was and is indeed the revenge promised by the present Mayor after the election results had been tabulated.

However, now as more and more people have seen for themselves the deplorable state of District affairs, the Mayor has gone to the trouble of introducing a new Procedure Bylaw. It is clearly an attempt to shift the blame for the present crisis and the consequences of his "leadership" away from himself. It is also an attempt to muzzle the increasing criticism against the District's bankrupt fiscal policies, the extent of which have also recently come to light.



[Part 1.2](#)

Type: application/ms-tnef
Encoding: base64