

Subject: FW: Notice of Motion West Nile Virus;

Date: Mon, 26 May 2003 11:53:50 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: Monday, May 26, 2003 11:49 AM

> To: Nathalie Valdes

> Subject: Notice of Motion West Nile Virus;

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> Agenda Addenda

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> Notice of Motion - Report Councilor Crest;

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> That Council seek clarification from staff as to the request to allocate \$ 10,000 from Council reserve which includes

> \$ 8,000 to cover the cost for the printing and distribution by the District of an information pamphlet on the West Nile Virus since both printing and distribution of such a pamphlet has already taken place and may already have been paid for by the Ministry of Health via the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority which includes the North Shore, Coast Garibaldi, Vancouver and Richmond and further that

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> if the information that Coastal Health has already paid for the printing and distribution of this pamphlet Council's decision to allocate \$ 8,000 for the printing of this pamphlet be rescinded.

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> Rationale:

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> When District Staff recently requested the expenditure of \$ 10,000 to distribute an information pamphlet to every household in the District on the hazards of the West Nile virus including suggestions as to how residents may protect themselves against "West Nile", the tenor of the Council discussion centered around the assumption that the Ministry of Health via the Coastal Health Authority was not about to live up to its responsibility to pay for the cost and that subsequently the District would be obliged to take up the slack and pay for both the printing of such a pamphlet as well as its distribution in the District.

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> In the District Staff Report it stated that for this purpose \$ 8,000 would be needed to "purchase and distribute" 36,000 pamphlets in the District. Specifically it stated that the cost included "\$ 5,200 for the Purchase of 36,000 pamphlets while another \$ 2,800 was needed for the distribution to every resident via a postal walk". Information from Coastal Health however, revealed that Coastal Health has already paid for both the pamphlet and may also have paid for its distribution. In light of this the matter needs clarification.


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> If the pamphlet prepared by the Coastal Health Authority has indeed been distributed as was confirmed by Coastal Health, regardless of the assistance by the municipality or otherwise, then the expenditure of \$ 8,000 requested by Staff is clearly unwarranted especially since to do so is not the responsibility of local government in the first place. In any event the information given to Council may have been incomplete if not misleading.

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> What may be more serious, however is that, in the event that the Ministry via Coastal Health, independent of Council, has already paid for the printing and distribution of the pamphlet or was committed to do so, failure by Council to rescind its previous decision will not only be an unnecessary expenditure but would also create a dangerous precedent since it will convince the Health Authorities that regardless of whether or not the Health Authorities accept their responsibility, municipalities will fill the gap. In any case clarification is urgently needed.

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