

Subject: Mayor Bell makes misleading comments at the Council meeting of July 14 in the matter of Removal of Sanctions Placed on Councillor Crist.

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Mayor Bell:

I have now received a transcript of your comments at the Council meeting of July 14 regarding Mr. Jeremy Dalton's Delegation request in the matter of "Removal of Sanctions Placed on Councillor Crist".

In it you state that " In this particular case, back in May 22, 2001, Council determined that the complaints warranted sanctions which were imposed by Council against Councilor Crist".

This statement is false since the Sanctions imposed on me in May 2001 were lifted de facto following my re election in November 2002 and when, as a result of this event, I was appointed Acting Mayor during the months of January and a portion of February 2003.

In February 2003 Council imposed new sanctions and deprived me once again of being Acting Mayor as well as denying me access to the Clerk's office. The reason given by Council for this decision was that I had violated Council policy by divulging certain In Camera matters to the press in connection with the Northlands "cover-up" scandal.

This is a matter of record as per Council minutes.

Therefore, the statement you made at the Council meeting on July 14 last is incorrect and I demand a retraction in public. You are at liberty, of course, to repeat the reasons you gave in February 2003 when you stated that I was (again) sanctioned for exposing the Northlands "cover-up" scandal and was subsequently being deprived of Acting Mayor as this falls entirely within the parameters of truth.

As for the sanctions imposed on me in 2001, apart from being irrelevant to the issue at hand, with the exception of "raising my voice" in the presence of a then junior clerk, they are allegations based on hearsay, they had never been proven and I have never acknowledged their validity. Furthermore, it is my opinion that this whole incident must be seen in the context of your disastrous performance in managing the affairs of the District in your capacity as Mayor on one hand and my criticism of this performance on the other hand.

Ernie Crist

