

Subject: RE: Responsible Use

Date: Tue, 27 Jan 2004 22:22:15 -0800

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

To: "Elizabeth James" <cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Corrie Kost" <corrie@kost.ca>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

CC: "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

Dear Ms James;

Thank you for your response.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth James [mailto:cagebc@yahoo.com]

Sent: January 27, 2004 2:39 PM

To: Ernie Crist; Corrie Kost; James Ridge

Cc: FONVCA; Cagebc@yahoo.com; Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee

Subject: RE: Responsible Use

27 January 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

Being "nice" is not incompatible with speaking the truth on important matters. Nor should it be construed as a weakness, or an unwillingness to tackle injustice, or mismanagement or lack of ethics wherever they may occur. Rather, it is common courtesy and a consideration of others - which is an uncommon strength.

As for freedom of speech....I believe one should have the widest possible freedom to say exactly what one pleases, in whatever manner one pleases - and to be judged accordingly.

In this regard, however, Democracy herself has decided - in law - that the right to freedom of speech carries with it two boundaries: (a) the *responsibility* to be judicious in its use; and, (b) the requirement to accept the *legal consequences* when one oversteps or abuses the generally accepted principles which govern such a freedom.

Personally, I would prefer that what I have said be remembered for the value of its content, not for the discourteous or "un-nice" manner in which I spoke it. In part, this is in my own self-interest, since I want what I say to carry weight with the listener - not turn him/her off.

Last but not least, I believe that an elected person who is using equipment which belongs to the taxpayer, has a responsibility to be circumspect in the use of that equipment. In no way is that any impediment to the telling of a truth or the righting of a wrong - nor does the telling need to be discourteous.

It is a simple case of setting one's own limits on one's behaviour.

Sincerely,
Liz James

Dear Dr. Kost:

Thank you for your contribution to this debate - I appreciate your insight. What I appreciate even more is that you have responded to this challenge on the side of what is right. Instead of pontificating about "being nice"....

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