

Subject: FW: Refusal by the District to clarify an alleged violation of District policy by Councillor Crist.

Date: Mon, 15 Aug 2005 10:00:17 -0700

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

To: "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

CC: <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Thank you Mr. Ridge for your reply.

Ernie Crist.

>
> _____
> **From:** James Ridge
> **Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2005 9:51 AM
> **To:** Ernie Crist; Mayor and Council - DNV
> **Subject:** RE: Refusal by the District to clarify an alleged
> violation of District policy by Councillor Crist.
>
> Please note I sent the following e-mail to Coun Crist on the 14th of
> May.
>
> "My knowledge of the RCMP findings is very limited. However I have no
> knowledge that you violated any DNV policies.
> James Ridge
> CAO"

> My position has not changed since then.

> James Ridge
> CAO

> _____
> **From:** Ernie Crist
> **Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2005 9:28 AM
> **To:** Mayor and Council - DNV
> **Cc:** James Ridge; Senior Management Committee; fonvca@fonvca.org
> **Subject:** Refusal by the District to clarify an alleged violation
> of District policy by Councillor Crist.

> Mayor Harris:


> You will undoubtedly recall that the RCMP, following a complaint, by
> what in all likelihood was an ex District employee, conducted an
> investigation into alleged wrongdoing on my part when I purchased a
> vehicle from a Car Dealership located in the District of North
> Vancouver.

> YOU HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE that the investigation cleared me of all
> wrong doing regarding this matter.

> However, in a follow up report, the RCMP indicated that,
> notwithstanding, I violated existing District policy regarding such
> matters. The meaning of this and how the RCMP could come to such a
> conclusion was never explained. I can only assume that the Burnaby
> RCMP Detachment which conducted the investigation was told something
> to that effect by a District official and has taken it as gospel truth
> without investigating it.

> For years I, as well as private citizens, attempted to change the
> District property lease policy and put it on a more businesslike and
> more transparent basis. A staff report to that effect showed that the
> existing District policy is anything but uniform and businesslike.
> This applies also to a property, adjacent to the car dealership in
> question, which is receiving a lease for a District owned property

> that is far below market.
>
> I assume that, in an attempt to divert attention away from this, my
> exposure of this unjustified lease agreement was said to be in
> violation of District policy when, in fact, I merely did my duty in
> pointing out what, in my opinion, is an unjustified subsidy to a
> private company at the expense of the taxpayers at large and, as
> such, is also in violation of the Municipal Charter and our oath of
> office, including yours. I along with other citizens, brought the
> matter of this particular lease to the attention of Mayor and Council,
> including yourself, as well as staff on more than one occasion. The
> matter was shrugged off by a senior staff stating "we cannot kick
> this lessee out since she has been with us for many years".
>
> When I asked our CAO whether, in his opinion, I was in violation of
> any District policy he stated that he had absolutely no knowledge to
> that effect and that the necessary steps to correct any
> misunderstanding should be made. However, when I subsequently pressed
> the CAO to give me something in writing and clarify this issue once
> and for all he refused. My request to the RCMP to give me any
> particular details to this effect were also dismissed by stating that
> this was outside the jurisdiction of the RCMP. If this is so, then why
> make such statement in the first place.
>
> I can only assume that the reason the District refused to clarify
> this matter is because this issue is an embarrassment to the District,
> including its Management, and is being swept under the rug at the
> expense of my reputation.
>
> However, I must now insist that you, as chief executive officer and
> within the powers of your office clarify this matter and make it
> public. I must insist that my name be cleared.
>
> Failure to do so will be a serious breach of etiquette on your part
> and is, in fact, a serious violation of your oath of office and of the
> positive workplace policy.
>
> I expect clarification as soon as possible.
>
> Thank you.
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> Yours truly,
>
> Ernie Crist
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