

Subject: FW: Steep Tax Increase

Date: Wed, 8 Jun 2005 22:21:33 -0700

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

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

Dear Mr.....

The short answer is because you have not been listening and to the extent that you did, you apparently did nothing. We warned you over and over again against the mismanagement of the District's fiscal resources and operations but you, along with all the other residents, ignored the truth staring you in the face so it seems.

During the " Don Bell" days, District taxes have gone from the second lowest in the region to the second highest - we told you so but you re-elected this man again and again. Indeed, when he harassed those of us and me, in particular, for telling the truth, you did nothing, at least not to my knowledge.

During that time the District, in addition to taxes, used up hundreds of millions of its Heritage Fund to subsidise its operations. We told you that, too. During that same time the District, and since 1997, also used up its Infrastructure Reserve Funds worth \$ 91 million. We told you that, too, but you did nothing.

I told you over and over again through letters to the Editor, during elections and published statements and election material, that the District was being mismanaged. Incidentally, the District, to this very day and despite all this, continues to subsidise the City of North Vancouver each and every year for purely political reasons. All my efforts to stop this have been ignored - why? because nobody cares. This is the I'M All Right Jack, society.

The North Vancouver Recreation Commission, contrary to any and all business principles, is using \$6 million of taxpayers dollars each and every year without justification, but all my efforts to stop this, without cutting the level of services and by simply reorganising the Commission based on sound business principles, have been ignored. Indeed for my troubles, I have been ousted from the Commission and replaced by people like Lisa Muri, who has, as indeed did Bell himself, overcharge the District on mileage expenses thus setting the example.

It is not the amount, so much but the fact that these people are in charge. This too was pointed out but without as much as a yawn. Even today, the District is subsidising the City - they are building the high-rises and the District is building the playing fields, free of charge more or less - this too has been pointed out.

The District has three for every one of the recreation facilities the City has, but the City, with over 50% of the District's population, is not contributing a single penny to the capital maintenance of those facilities in the District. This is another huge subsidy. I have pointed this out for years but not once did a single person say as much as "boo". Incidentally, the City's Heritage Fund is intact while in the District, as I have already stated, it is gone more or less. Also, the City's Infrastructure Reserve Fund is intact while that in the District is gone. That too was pointed out to you and all the other voters but nothing was done.

A same assessed value house in the City today pays \$ 600 dollars less in property taxes than the same house does in the District. This too has been pointed out, without anybody caring as much as a farthing. I am sorry to be so blunt but there it is - you asked and I told you.

I am only sorry that all the good people who were with me on Council in the past and those who ran for Council with me and told you the same thing over the years were defeated at the polls while the others were re-elected.

We get what we deserve, but please don't tell me you were not told. And finally, so that you don't think all I did was be critical - I made over 600 initiatives during the last five years alone in an attempt to make the District a better and more fiscally responsible municipality. But there was no support. In most cases my motions could not even be debated. Indeed, Don Bell, made sure this would be difficult. He did so simply by decreeing that, in order for a motion to be debated, it would have to be seconded by one of his cronies on Council first.

Finally to be fair, there have been some good people in the District, including Dr. Corrie Kost, Allan Orr, David Sadler, Fred Gooch, Brian Platts, Eric Andersen and others who have brought these points to the attention of the public but they suffered the same fate as I did more or less. They were largely ignored mainly by the public.

You asked what gives, well this is what gives and this is the result, but that is just the beginning as the chickens will come home to roost in the coming years. Apathy extracts a price and nowhere is this more true than in the field of politics, civic included.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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


Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2005 10:18 AM
To: Mayor and Council - DNV
Subject: Steep Tax Increase

Hello members of District of N.V.

.....Industries taxes have skyrocketed by over 49% from last year's taxes, although you are only calling for a 3.75% increase.

Kindly explain why we in manufacturing and exporting 70% in US funds, another hit with the US dollar going South, have been allocated this huge increase.

Thank you.

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