

Subject: Response to letter of complaint about 3 delay of snow clearing on some District streets;

Date: Sat, 6 Apr 2002 10:00:19 -0800

From: Ernie Crist <CristE@dnv.org>

To: Nathalie Valdes <ValdesN@dnv.org>

CC: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>, Directors Team <managecomm@district.north-van.bc.ca>, Gord Howie <HowieG@dnv.org>, Richard Zerr <ZerrR@district.north-van.bc.ca>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mr. Breitkopf:

I agree that all District streets need to be cleared of snow and/or must be salted within 24 hours. Indeed District Council and management in the past took great pride that this would be done within a 24 hour period regardless of conditions so as not to unduly confine people to their homes. It called for streets to be cleared on a basis of priority starting with main and bus routes first, followed by collector roads, to be followed by all other roads, including cul-de-sacs, but still all within a 24 hour period.

Never at any time has this unwritten policy been changed to 72 hours as you have been told and quite frankly I am amazed that anyone would make such a statement. Indeed to have a 3 day delay before roads are cleared and made reasonably safe would mean that people would have to stay in their homes for up to 3 days, not to speak of the potential risks to their lives in the event of an emergency. To suggest that ambulances or fire trucks cannot safely access side streets or cul-de-sacs for up to three days is nothing less than preposterous.

What is even more incredible is that District Management would make such a change without informing Council officially. When you first told me about this I could not believe that this was the case and subsequently I made a motion that this matter be clarified and that we receive a staff report top that effect. However my motion was not seconded which means not only that I was unable to introduce and explain the purpose of this motion in public but it also means that staff has been given a green light to ignore any further action in that regard.

The ambiguous, unsatisfactory, often contradictory and quite frankly the bureaucratic baffle-gab you have received in response to your enquiries may well be the result of this serious breakdown of performance and leadership in the District. I too have never received a satisfactory answer even though I am an elected official. This alone should tell you something about the level of competence of the present leadership of the District. To deny an elected official the right to introduce and explain a motion was introduced by the present CCA endorsed Mayor and Council elected in the Fall of 1999.

Notwithstanding the above, I will re-open this case. I will make yet another motion and request clarification of this matter. However I must say that even then it is far from certain that Council directions will be carried out. Some time ago, for instance, I made a motion that the Bylaw Office be moved back to the District Hall. It was agreed to by Council but so far no action has been taken even though the decision was made almost two years ago. Needless to say if this were to happen in the private sector it would


result in dismissal.

However, as I stated, I will make yet another attempt to have this matter clarified.

On a final note I should add that if the 24 policy has indeed been changed it would constitute a violation of the promises made by District Council to the electorate during the last several budgets. The promise was that there would be no cuts in the level of services. I should also point out that the District now has the highest residential property tax. That is to say residential municipal taxes, including waste, water, etc, for a \$ 400,000, home are higher in the District of North Vancouver then they are in any other municipality in the region. I should also mention that this is exclusive of the millions of dollars the District has siphoned off form its Heritage Fund to supplement expenses plus the additional funds it has taken from its reserves.

Yours truly

Ernie Crist

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