

Subject: FW: Response to letter from David L Cook re trees.

Date: Tue, 15 Apr 2003 06:45:16 -0700

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

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2003 6:37 AM

> To: Nathalie Valdes

> Subject: Response to letter from David L Cook re trees.

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>

> Dear Mr. Cook:

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> Based on the letter you have submitted to Council regarding the tree issue it is clear to me that you are unaware of the many and justified complaints regarding this matter. The issue is not so much the tree bylaw itself but the way it has been enforced. There is an old saying that there is no substitute for common sense. But that is exactly what has happened here.

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> To begin with I need to point out that I was one of main initiator of this bylaw. Sadly I have become aware that it has been abused and applied in a fashion that is nothing less than scandalous.

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> In one instance a senior who was impacted by several trees adjacent to his house, offered to replace the trees at his own expense since the needles of these particular pine trees were ruining his roof which due to his age he could no longer scale. Common sense would dictate that he be allowed to replace these trees with trees that would not cause such a problem. But the bureaucracy with the assistance of the District Council refused.

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> However, in another case where adjacent to a house there were several beautiful trees and where the people requested that they not be cut down since they were important to the neighborhood, the same District decided to cut them down because the telephone wires were too close. Well I am familiar with the District and if we cut all the trees in the District because the wires are too close to the trees then we may as well cut down half of the trees in the District. Once again the decision was arbitrary and lacked any semblance of common sense.

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> In yet another case where the roots of pine trees on a private property were destroying not only the adjacent retaining walls but also the foundation of the house itself the District refused to give permission to cut those trees. I am asking you where its the rationale for such an insane application of a bylaw.

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> As a result of these and many other similar instances of insanity I have come to the conclusion that it is better to allow people to use their own judgment. God help us if we have to rely on the judgment of bureaucrats to protect trees in the District. This is the conclusion I have come to and I intend to stick with it.

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> Yours truly,

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> Ernie Crist

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