

Subject: TPAC meeting with Council

Date: Wed, 30 Apr 2003 09:24:00 -0700

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

CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Directors Team" <managecomm@dnv.org>

Dear

This is in response to your question as to why I did not attend last night's Council's meeting with the Transportation Advisory Committee TPAC. I thank you for your enquiry.

I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the members serving on this Committee as indeed I salute all volunteers serving on the various Council Committees. You may be aware that it was I who initiated the setting up the TPAC years ago.

However, in light of the Mayor's continued hostile attempts to undermine any and all my efforts to provide any kind of leadership in any direction (harassment), my attendance at such meetings has become more and more frustrating. In the final analysis, it is up to Council and above all the Mayor to implement the recommendations made by TPAC. This has not been the case, however.

The bottom line is that Mayor Bell has not provided leadership on any of the important issues of transportation at any level. By way of example, I urged Council to have a combined meeting of all North Shore Councils, open to TPAC and the public, to produce a comprehensive policy on North Shore transportation goals. It is important to pursue a common long term North Shore objective based on modern public transportation principles even though such an objective may be long term. It is equally important that we speak with a united voice at both the GVRD and the Regional transportation governance level. This was almost two years ago but, as of this moment, absolutely nothing has been done.


As a member serving on TPAC for a lengthy period, you are undoubtedly aware of my past efforts. I have made countless motions and have produced countless initiatives to produce a coherent transportation policy for the District and the North Shore based on the principles of modern urban public commuting.

They include proposals ranging from governance to North Shore autonomy and from Rapid Transit and Sea Buses to bicycle paths. These efforts have been sustained and comprehensive. However the Mayor has nixed any and all my efforts in any of these areas. But he has gone one step further. Not only has he not supported any of these initiatives but by manipulating the democratic process he has made even my ability to introduce such motions and initiatives difficult, if not virtually impossible.

When I served on TPAC and went to the trouble of putting the gist of the TPAC efforts into the form of motions or initiatives at regular Council meetings, the Mayor refused even to allow me to explain them before calling for a seconder for debate. This means that many of them were never debated never mind acted upon. He could do this then and can continue to do this since he has the support of the rest of Council. In short the Mayor has used his power to subvert Council. Clearly they are not aware of the crucial importance of democratic procedure and the elementary democratic rights of an elected representative. The only other possible explanation is that the Mayor is using these tactics as an excuse to divert attention from the issues and avoid providing leadership.

This is why I did not attend last night's TPAC meeting. I know you will convey the gist of my message to the other members of TPAC. I sincerely hope that you will continue your hard work. Politicians come and politicians, hopefully politicians who are in the way of progress, will go.

Ernie Crist

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