Subject:
   Date: Wed, 3 Sep 2003 13:28:11 -0700
  From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>
    To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>
   CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

*   At the Council meeting of Sept. 2 Mrs Maureen Bragg, Chair of the Lynn Valley
Community Association, addressed Council. She charged that the recent publicity in the
local press concerning the Lynn Valley Community Plan, the proposed Library and Civic
Square project contained erroneous information. No specific name of the author of the
alleged erroneous information, story or letter to the editor, as the case may be, was
mentioned.

Neither did she make any specific mention as to what part of the story or letter was
inaccurate. However, it was I who recently wrote a letter to the NEWS in which I made
some serious charges as to how the District mishandled the Lynn Valley Community Plan, of
which the proposed Civic Square including the Library is merely a part. I also pointed to
the lack of leadership in realizing any potential financial benefits accruing to the
municipality as a result of the densification of the Lynn Valley Core area which has
already taken place.

I was also highly critical of the proposal to ask the residents of the District for
another 18 Million Dollars for the Library and the commercial sector of the civic square,
when funds surpassing this amount are already in place while, at the same time, the
District uses millions of dollars from its Heritage Fund to cover operating expenses. In
any case, I stand by my letter to the NEWS and I challenge anybody to point out any
information at variance with the facts. This is provided that the criticism by Mrs Bragg
was indeed directed at me.

As I have stated on numerous occasions, I am in full support of a new Library. But I
will not support asking the District residents for another $ 18 million when an amount
equal to that figure and more is already available to the District. This includes $ 6
million from the old referendum for the Library, close to $ 8 million already allocated
from the Heritage Fund, close to $ 4 million expected from the sale of the existing
Library site and $ 2 million from the Federal Government. Neither will I support asking
the public for additional money as long as the District misuses its Heritage Fund.

As to the area within the Lynn Valley Core already developed to a higher density and
sold, to the residents as "Pedestrian Oriented" complete with tree lined boulevards and
designated bicycle lanes, I can only reiterate that it was a hoax from beginning to
end.

The redevelopment of the Lynn Valley Core area, is anything but "Pedestrian Oriented".
The developers got what they wanted and moved on. The District residents got nothing
except the bill for the infrastructure for the redevelopment which has already taken
place.

Maybe some people don't know the difference between a "Pedestrian Oriented Town Center"
and a Car Mall but I do - maybe they don't know the difference between a small Civic
Square containing a Library and the larger Lynn Valley "Pedestrian Oriented Town Center"
but I do - maybe they are unaware of the opportunities which were available to the
District to share the profits with the property owners as a result of large scale
densification, but I am.

I would like to suggest that the people who claim that my letter to the NEWS was not
valid, read it again and this time more carefully, if indeed this is what was being
referred to. As I pointed out in my letter in the NEWS, as long as the residents of the
District are silent in the face of mismanagement or even defend it for whatever reason,
it will surely continue.

The Lynn Valley "Pedestrian Oriented Town Center" is and has been nothing less than a
scandalous hoax by any standard - yet another example of the District's incompetence,
notwithstanding that some people worked hard in helping to draw up the Plan and did so in
good faith.

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