

Subject: [Fwd: Re: FW: Response to letter from North Shore Together against Violence Network]

Date: Tue, 09 Dec 2003 17:46:36 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: FW: Response to letter from North Shore Together against Violence Network

Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2003 01:23:29 +0000 (GMT)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>,
Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, Robyn Newton <Robyn_Newton@dnv.org>

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

Dear Clr. Crist:

Leadership's great, but having enough time for all that needs doing is another matter.

There is no end to the number of extremely important issues and causes that are deserving of one's interest, energy and leadership skills. The proliferation of TV violence and violence in the community are but two, linked, examples.

The point I was trying to make is that one only has so much time and energy to devote. That applies, also, to Council. If you are willing to concede me that point, is it not appropriate for me to also suggest that Council's immediate and primary responsibility is to deal efficiently with the tasks that come within its official mandate under the LGA?

As things stand, Council rarely completes its agenda in a timely fashion, if at all, so let's deal with first things first. Rather than adding items which are not strictly within its mandate, it's my opinion that Council needs to look for ways it could cut back on the number of issues that are brought to the table.

Another aspect to the discussion is that of community responsibility. If we are not to be handing over our whole pay cheque to taxes, citizens must stop looking to government to be 'all things to all people,' and take up some of these cudgels for themselves. If they have not the will or the initiative to do so then, as far as I'm concerned, they abdicate the right to expect it of government - i.e. other taxpayers.

So, again, let's make sure we get things running more smoothly and efficiently at District Hall, before we look further afield for more work to load on Council and Staff.

Sincerely,

Liz James

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

Dear Ms James:

No, I do not agree - if it affects us directly as it does, it IS our business. We have to suffer the consequences, we have to pay the police costs. The consequences take place right under our own noses not in Ottawa nor in Victoria but right here in our own neighborhood.

You better believe it is our problem and we have to pay for the results. Leadership has to start somewhere and quite frankly where else do you suggest it will start? In Ottawa? In Victoria? - hardly, so that leaves only us. Like the conscript in the "Great Dictator" there is nobody but us to disarm the live shell. The donkey invariably falls into the well right here and on weekdays to boot. I wish you could participate in a UBCM or FCM Convention- I am sure you would value the experience.

What we need is encouragement and support not cold water. What with the ignorance and apathy all around, including in high places, it is difficult enough as it is.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

-Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth James [mailto:cagebc@yahoo.com]

Sent: December 9, 2003 11:02 AM

To: Ernie Crist; Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee; Robyn Newton

Cc: FONVCA (E-mail); Cagebc@yahoo.com

Subject: Re: FW: Response to letter from North Shore Together against Violence Network

9 December 2003

Dear Clr. Crist:

The idea of a community discussion on domestic violence - and/or of gratuitous violence on TV and in video games - is a worthy one. Individual members of council could either attend, or involve themselves in the actual organization of a symposium as they wish.

That said, I believe this to be a cause which is better taken up by the community itself. If/when the community drafts a report and recommendations, it would be more appropriate for a representative group to present its findings to a level of government that has a mandate which enables it to take action.

Local government is certainly affected to the extent that violence in the community costs us all - emotionally and fiscally. However, Council has no control over TV programming, so it is not in a position to take any stronger action than to write a letter of support for more control over programme content.

For this reason, I believe it would be preferable for Council to explain that in a supportive letter to NSTVN, rather than to raise false hopes by including the matter on Council's already too full agenda, or by taking responsibility for a symposium.

I would be very interested to read other comments to see if I am totally out of step on this one...

Sincerely,

Liz James

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

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

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: December 9, 2003 8:44 AM

> To: 'tav_northshore@hotmail.com'

> Cc: FONVCA (E-mail); 'Cagebc@hotmail.com'

> Subject: Response to letter from North Shore Together against Violence Network

>

> Dear Ms Wolf:

>

> Thank you for your letter of support of the motion calling for a community wide seminar designed to mobilize public opinion against advertisers and programs depicting gratuitous violence on TV and for the "Together Against Violence Network" informing it's members of the motion's recommendations to Council to this effect.

>

> I firmly believe that the time has come to address this issue and elevate it to a more active level as may well be determined by such a symposium.

>

> While violence and the gratuitous depiction of violence has become a virtual way of life with incalculable consequences to the victims especially those least able to defend themselves namely the old, the weak, children, women and minorities, it is undoubtedly true that the corporate advertisers sponsoring gratuitous violence on TV etc carry a major responsibility for what appears to be a rapid escalation of this plague.

>

> I am convinced that a symposium on this issue will be extremely valuable to the community and may well be a rallying point for a more aggressive stand against the perpetrators of gratuitous violence on TV and violence in general.

>

While Mayor Bell deferred the motion without taking a vote to this effect, I still hope that it will be dealt with and passed by Council in a timely fashion.

> Yours truly,
>
> Ernie Crist

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