

**Subject: FW: Car Allowance**

**Date:** Fri, 23 Jul 2004 11:06:14 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

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

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: July 23, 2004 10:55 AM

> To: Maureen McKeon Holmes; Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior

> Management Committee; James Ridge

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

> Subject: RE: Car Allowance

>

> Councillor McKeon Holmes:

>

> My apologies for misspelling your name.

>

> As for the other issues you have raised - not only are you wrong and  
> picking on the wrong person but you are also picking the wrong issue.  
> I have my routine and you have yours - I have my working style and you  
> have yours and please don't tell me to change mine according to your  
> criteria. I would not dream of telling you how to organize yours. The  
> fact is that I adhered to the policy. So please keep out since you  
> definitely do not know what you are talking about any more than Janice  
> Harris ( the pen thrower) does when she is talking about Council  
> indemnities.

>

> If you wanted to save ( big) money for the municipality you should  
> have supported or at least voted to allow debate of my initiatives on  
> ending the subsidies to the City or reforming the Rec Commission,  
> using the Heritage Fund properly etc., but you did not do that. Only  
> last week you supported yet another deferral of my motion to have an  
> outside audit on Council expenses, including Don Bell's.

>

> Never forget that you also voted against having an outside audit on  
> Northlands. And never forget that you joined forces with the most  
> poisonous elements to deprive me even of my right to explain  
> initiatives to the electors. Is this your contribution to the  
> struggle for civic democracy? Clearly you do not understand that the  
> struggle for civic democracy in importance supercedes all other  
> issues. But that is up to you to find that out. I cannot prevent you  
> from going down the road of self destruct along with those who, in my  
> opinion, have used you. I do suggest, however, you not tell me how  
> to do my job.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Ernie Crist

>

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

> From: Maureen McKeon Holmes

> Sent: July 22, 2004 9:52 AM

> To: Ernie Crist; Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management

> Committee; James Ridge

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

> Subject: RE: Car Allowance

>

> Dear Councillor Crist:

> I travel as other council members to events and building developments.  
> I have a car to maintain and to fill with gas. Consequently, I  
> consolidate several development applications in order to save both  
> time and money. One example comes to mind and that is the day when I  
> attended a Waldorf school orientation. The only other Councillor in

> attendance was Councillor Harris. After the orientation, I went to the  
> 3150 and 3050 Fromme street sites where there were two triplex  
> applications within a block of each other. Although we had not  
> prearranged a meeting, I found Councillor Harris had done the same  
> thing. Together we walked the block and discussed both projects.  
> Neither of us charged for that tour. As your logs show, you chose to  
> visit both sites on two separate days. Your visiting both locations on  
> separate days met the criteria of the policy but was not very  
> efficient.

>  
> Also, in your message and in previous emails have stated that I was  
> endorsed by NET. I have never been endorsed by NET. Similarly to you,  
> I had an interview but was not accepted.

>  
> Again, just a reminder, my name is spelled McKeon Holmes.

>  
> Thank you,  
> Maureen

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

> From: Ernie Crist  
> Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2004 4:33 PM  
> To: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee;  
> James Ridge  
> Cc: FONVCA (E-mail); 'Cagebc@yahoo.com'  
> Subject: Car Allowance

>  
> A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

>  
> Mayor Don Bell, will not have to pay back \$ 8,400 he owes to  
> the District taxpayers for unlogged car allowance, but District  
> Councillor Lisa Muri, who owes a much smaller amount, will have to  
> reimburse the District for over one thousand dollars for 2003. This  
> is according to a decision made by Council on Monday July 19. Bell  
> claimed that he had kept a record but had been too busy to enter it  
> in his log. "Don't worry," he said, "I will transfer it by next  
> Monday." Lisa Muri was short of the required kilometers for 2003m to  
> qualify for the \$ 226 per month.

>  
> The issue came up as a result of a motion that the District  
> Car allowance policy be reviewed. The idea behind the policy, among  
> others, is to encourage members of Council to visit places listed on  
> the agenda mostly development applications and rezoning sites. The  
> review showed that Councillor Ernie Crist was the only member of  
> Council who had kept a proper log and had played by the rules. BUT  
> rather than acknowledge that Crist had done the right thing Council,  
> used the opportunity to attack Crist instead .

>  
> Councillor MacKeon Homes was particularly viscous and accused  
> Crist of not being efficient in his travels. Crist should have gone  
> to the different places on the same day rather than on separate days  
> she said. She wanted to turn this matter over to the RCMP, saying she  
> believed Crist had cheated the municipality. While her outburst was  
> surely a sign that District business has descended to the gutter  
> level, it did divert attention from Don Bell who should have been  
> requested to reimburse the taxpayers for the \$8,400 he owes. Getting  
> into the act, District Staff suggested that the policy should be  
> changed retroactively so that Crist would have to pay back money even  
> though he followed the rules. This strange and absurd idea was  
> actually seriously considered by Council before it was narrowly  
> defeated with NET endorsed Councillors Nixon and MacKeon Holmes  
> voting in favor of such a nonsensical and illegal act.

>  
> North Vancouver District Council has a car allowance policy. It

> entitles members of Council and employees to claim compensation based  
> on logged mileage or kilometerage as it is now called. " I personally  
> claim an average of between 150 and 180 km per month," said Crist.  
> "This works out to approx 5 km per day and under the policy entitles  
> me to \$ 226 dollars per month. Although I log approximately 10 km per  
> day, I claim, on average, for only 5 per day," he said .

>  
> "In practical terms, it means I am subsidizing the  
> municipality," said Crist. "We have one car in the family already. It  
> belongs to my wife and would be sufficient for the two of us," he  
> said.

>  
> "I need a car for Council business which costs me considerably  
> more than the \$ 226 dollars per month," he said. "The lease on my  
> economy car alone is close to \$ 400 a month over the three year  
> Council term, not to mention business insurance, gasoline and  
> maintenance. The issue is that I followed the rules, the only member  
> of Council to do so. Don Bell, on the other hand, did not. He will  
> not have to do so, however, because the NET endorsed District Council  
> has two standards and is protecting Bell and because Bell "merely  
> forgot" to enter the daily log for 365 days in 2003," said Crist.

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