

Subject: Misleading staff report by the Director of Recreation dated Feb. 17-2004.

Date: Fri, 12 Mar 2004 09:59:21 -0800

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

To: "Heather Fleming" <flemingh@northvanrec.com>, <Sandyfleming@telus.net>

CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <CageBc@yahoo.com>

Ms. Fleming:

In my capacity as a Councillor of the District of North Vancouver I requested and received a few promotional passes from the head of the Ron Andrews Rec. Facility. These free one visit introductory passes have been issued by the Rec Commission to hand out to interested persons. In other words they are promotional passes.

However, these passes have nothing to do with regular annual passes costing an individual user an estimated \$ 300 per year. The Commission also hands out passes valued at \$ 300 to members of the Rec Commission. However, this is done at no cost to the commissioners. This enables such users to use the facilities free of charge for a whole year.

Members of Council, who serve on the Commission as Council appointees, also receive such free passes not only for themselves but also for members of their families. I understand, for instance, that District Councillor Muri has received such free passes ever since she has been on the Commission.

As you know, notwithstanding your contention that members of Council serving on the Commission should receive free passes not only for themselves but also for the members of their family so they will get a better understanding of Recreation facility issues I believe this is a most dubious rationale. Subsequently I have challenged the validity of this practice as it applies to elected officials since, in my opinion, it is in violation of the spirit of the conflict of interest guidelines as spelled out in the Community Charter.

My concern, in the case of elected officials receiving free gifts results from the fact that, in my opinion, Council appointed Commissioners must be objective in their judgment. In this connection, I should mention that Councillor Nixon, who is the other District Council appointee stated that he has declined to accept free annual passes not only for himself but also for members of his family.

However, notwithstanding that, in any case, there is no connection between free one visit promotional passes and free annual passes, in your report to Council of Feb. 17 , 2004 you stated that Councillor Crist asked for and received free passes and that he was the only Councillor to do so. You thus inferred that either I used such free promotional passes for my own use and/or that there is no difference between the two types of passes.


I take great exception to this. The situation is especially sensitive since Mayor Bell at a public meeting, in a highly unethical manner, also attempted to tie the two types of passes together. Such remarks can have one and one purpose only which is to malign my character.

In light of this, I have returned the remaining promotional passes from last year still in my possession to the Mayor with a request to return them to you. You may be aware that having served as Commissioner for 6 years I am entitled to a free life pass. Notwithstanding, however, I pay the regular fee like any other citizen. This makes me far more conscious of the fee increases the Commission is handing out each and every year over and above the cost of living index, including to seniors, while, at the same time, the Commission receives a subsidy from the District taxpayers of nearly \$ 6 million dollars a year.

Paying for my own pass in full also enables me to more critically assess the efficiency or lack thereof of the Commission. Please confirm that you have received the promotion passes I have returned.

Thank you,

Ernie Crist

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