

Subject:
Date: Sun, 27 Feb 2005 10:05:50 -0800
From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>
To: <bruce@bruceallen.com>
CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Mark Bostwick" <Mark_Bostwick@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, <cwzemk@shaw.ca>, <dadson6966@home.com>, <kspencer@pacpress.southam.ca>, <john_blatherwick@vrhb.bc.ca>

Dear Bruce:

I read your "Province" column this morning "Hop on Blue Bus" and found it very interesting. Interesting because it is yet another example of how something can be twisted between event and hitting the press so it has no resemblance to what actually happened.

Yes, Bruce, there are things going on in the streets that are not exactly kosher but the very last thing I wanted was to make Jamie Graham the scapegoat for the utter failure of our politicians to effectively deal with the real problem of the homeless, the panhandlers, the mentally ill and the street junkies, and, I might add, a criminal justice system that is nothing more than a farce.


It's too bad you did not call me before you submitted your story. I could have told you a thing or two. What disappoints me the most, however, is that you made me out to be nothing more than yet another clueless politician.

I brought this matter to the attention of Council and the public not to prove that I am a North Van elitist but because I am fed up with the hypocrisy of our society. Shoving people around is not the solution I have said numerous times but this is the one point the story tellers, including you, always leave out of the story.

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that in a society where the rich get richer and the poor make \$ 8 per hour, where the mentally ill are left to fend for themselves, where even a modest accommodation is beyond the ability of many people, the street jungle with its drugs and crime is the last refuge.

I wanted to bring this issue to the attention of the public. I have raised the matter of truly affordable housing and other social issues to the attention of my Council on more than one occasion. It is too bad that you missed this point and that my message got lost. I may not be perfect but I am not just yet another socially stupid politician.

Yours truly,
Ernie Crist

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