

Subject: Election signs

Date: Fri, 25 Nov 2005 05:37:55 +0000 (GMT)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Mayor & Council <council@dnv.org>

CC: "James Ridge, CAO" <james_ridge@dnv.org>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Mayor-Elect Darrell Mussatto <DMussatto@cnv.org>

24 November 2005

Dear Mayor and Council:

I have prepared this letter to ask that you ask Staff to prepare a swift amendment to the sign bylaw, which would prohibit the placement of election signs on anything other than private residential property.

Throughout the Lower Mainland and on several levels, the recently-concluded local election campaign was a less than elevating experience.

Name-calling and accusations of dirty tricks were the order of the day in several municipalities. On the North Shore, expensive misinformation was circulated freely without discussion by candidates, or challenge by the media. In the District, this wonderful democratic exercise of ours saw outright vandalism which surpassed that of any election in recent memory.

A particularly disturbing example saw three personal signs on private property of one candidate, ripped out of the ground and replaced by five new ones of an opposing contender. Just today, the signs of some candidates who were not elected, were still to be seen on the District median along Lynn Valley Road.

In general, there were so many election signs ripped up and thrown on sidewalks and medians, that anyone landing in the District from another country, could have been forgiven for asking whether we were undergoing a strike by garbage collection personnel. And no sooner has that mess been cleaned up, than we are threatened with yet another Federal election. Enough already!

Is this type of cowardly law-breaking is to be the order of the day? If so, a December-January election campaign conjures up nauseating visions of hundreds of Silver-Bells lying in the rain, mud or snow all over the District - not my idea of Christmas decorations!

For that reason, I beg you to ban election signs in the District - either in total, or at least restricted to private property. My rationale is that signs are an expensive waste of time. They cost scarce campaign dollars to buy and scarce campaign workers' time to plant - and replant. Shaw Cable covers candidate debates locally, as do the North Shore Outlook and News, and the papers enjoy the advertising revenue. Anyone who is actually interested in what the contenders have to say, can also attend All-Candidate meetings, so we can well do without the dreaded photos grinning at us from every corner of the intersection.

The only sign I want to see, is the one I plan to have on my bumper: Do away with politicians - Don't Vote!

Thank you for your consideration,

Liz James
[604] 988-2066

[Yahoo! Model Search](#) - Could you be the next [catwalk superstar](#)? Check out the [competition](#) now