

**Subject:**

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST -

It may be hard to believe but to get an idea as to what democracy means to District Mayor Janice Harris and her Council you have to actually hear this story.

During a 2005 budget meeting in April of this year when various community and civic groups came before Council to make their usual plea for grants, Councillors were not allowed to ask questions from those who had applied to receive taxpayers money. This was a first even for the District and fittingly it was Janice Harris who was in the chair.

YET ANOTHER SHINING EXAMPLE OF CIVIC DEMOCRACY IN THE DISTRICT COMES TO MIND - THIS TIME FROM ONE OF THE MAYOR'S PREDECESSORS WHOM I WILL CALL MAYOR "NERD".

A resident who was opposed to the Northlands Golf Course and wanted a massive housing development instead just as did Janice Harris, went to the Mayor and complained that Councillor Crist had been invited and allowed to speak to the Council appointed Northlands Golf Course Committee.

Crist told the members of the Committee he thought building a golf course would be good idea and urged them to continue pushing for this worthy project. However, the person (Mr. Clueless) opposed to the golf course requested that the Mayor forbid any member of Council to attend meetings of any Council appointed Committee otherwise open to the public.

The then Mayor with the support of Council, including Janice Harris actually did introduce such a motion which was subsequently passed over the objection of Councillor Crist who in turn wrote a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting clarification. The Minister did - she sent a letter to the Mayor with Harris getting a copy, informing Council that in this country an elected representative is allowed to attend committee meetings with or without the consent of the relevant Council.

Indeed the Minister expressed surprise that such a strange motion would have even been considered, never mind that it actually passed. Clearly the Minister had overestimated the level of comprehension by the Council of the District when it comes to democratic rights of an elected official.

It is worthwhile to remember this in light of a more recent incident regarding the use of the word "hoax" and the subsequent action by Janice Harris demanding that Councillor Crist either withdraw the word hoax in connection with the Lynn 'Valley so called Pedestrian Oriented Town Center or leave the Council Chambers.

Crist left the Council Chambers for as he later stated "it is not a swear word but merely and "emphatic" and given the circumstances was entirely appropriate" he said. However, this incident should be remembered. It should also be remembered that such violations usually carry a heavy price tag. Violations of civic democracy usually occur for a reason.



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