

**Subject: [Fwd: Re: Character assassination]**

**Date:** Wed, 27 Jul 2005 14:32:28 -0700

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Re: Character assassination

**Date:** Tue, 26 Jul 2005 18:42:29 +0100 (BST)

**From:** Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

**To:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>, Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**CC:** James Ridge <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org, mmillerchip@nsnews.com

26 July 2005

Dear Brian, Clr. Crist:

I have said this before but it bears repeating - it appears the only way in which this matter can be settled, once and for all, is to put it before the Courts. Only in that way can people be sworn under oath to reveal all of the facts. In the event Clr. Crist is not willing to do that then, I regret, it is likely there'll never be a satisfactory end to it.

Canada, it seems, has managed to subvert many a common law which has served Western society well for centuries. It does so, yet again, when it flies directly in the face of a citizen's "right to face his accuser." The - acceptable in my view - rationale for doing so, is that a person who sincerely believes that a wrong is being/has been committed might be scared to come forward unless s/he can have the protection of anonymity.

A person's right to anonymity, however, bears a huge responsibility and should contain a caveat: A person who intends to make accusations about another individual which, if untrue, would constitute a defamation of character, needs to consider long and hard whether or not s/he has done everything possible to verify the facts before going public. This burden is all the more onerous when the person being accused is an elected official, virtually unable to counter accusations which may well be politically motivated. [As an aside, I find it more than encouraging that some U.S. celebrities have begun to fight back in the courts against the lies and doctored photographs beloved of so many tabloid papers.]

The caveat is that, if and when the accusations are proven groundless - as the R.C.M.P. have done in the current situation - and, particularly, when the latest episode is but the latest in a string of such incidents, then I believe the maligned has a right to face his accuser. In Clr. Crist's position, believing myself to be in the right, I would have been in court long before now, to have witnesses sworn under oath and to get to the bottom of the matter.

I have some talents and many faults, but the two traits I prize above all else are my character and reputation. They are non-negotiable and no-one, *no-one* gets to impugn them without recourse....and so it should be with Clr. Crist.....

Liz James  
[604] 988-2066

**Brian Platts** <bplatts@shaw.ca> wrote:

Dear Councillor Crist,

For me to say that the whole situation surrounding the bogus accusations made against you has been unusual, is simply not adequate. Let me see if I've got this straight ... there was the well-publicized but anonymous accusation made that you accepted a favorable car lease arrangement in exchange for some sort of political favour. While there was absolutely no substance to the accusation, the RCMP investigation that cleared you had also indicated that you somehow violated District policies and procedures. In the attempt to get to the bottom of the matter you asked the Superintendent for clarification, but he responded that it is not the RCMP's mandate to investigate violations of municipal policy. If that is indeed the case, one wonders, then why was it part of the report? When you queried the District's CAO, he responded that he was not privy to the findings of the police investigation including the so-called breach of policy, however in order to determine such a breach, the RCMP must have obtained some evidence from the

District even though the Superintendent says that this would not be in the mandate of the police. After this run-around you could be excused for feeling like you have just found yourself in an episode of The Twilight Zone. It's hard to know what to make of this whole mess other than you deserve some answers from somebody.

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts

Ernie Crist wrote:

Mr Ridge;

You must have some knowledge about this, after all, the investigation was conducted during your tenure was it not?

Surely, somebody on your staff must have made a statement to that effect or are you telling me that a non District staffer and/or politician can make statements to the RCMP about alleged violations of District policy or procedure without your knowledge, if indeed that is what happened?

How can we ever verify the veracity of charges that I have violated procedure and/or policy if nobody owns up to having made such charges at a time when the charges have been put on paper? That is to say, if the accusers are too cowardly to come forward and state so in this yet one more District of North Vancouver politically motivated scandal, character assassination and quite frankly harassment of an elected official?

How indeed, can we pursue this matter further and make the culprits accountable when the culprits and those who know the truth hide behind a veil of lies, double talk, deception and just plain yellow bellied cowardness? Why am I not allowed to face my accusers?

Ernie Crist.

-----Original Message-----

From: James Ridge  
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2005 4:20 PM  
To: Ernie Crist; Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee  
Cc: '[fonvca@fonvca.org](mailto:fonvca@fonvca.org)'  
Subject: RE:

Coun Crist

I am not privy to the findings of the investigation, including those findings that gave rise to Supt Tomlinson's comments about possible breaches of District policy. Therefore I can't comment on the legitimacy of his observations in the letter.

James Ridge  
CAO

-----Original Message-----

From: Ernie Crist  
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2005 9:19 PM  
To: James Ridge; Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee  
Cc: '[fonvca@fonvca.org](mailto:fonvca@fonvca.org)'  
Subject: FW:

Mr Ridge;

As you can see from the email below, the matter of my Jetta purchase at Capilano Volkswagen is taking on a new twist. The original investigation, I believe, was prompted by a one time District employee who in turn was encouraged to act in this fashion by a member of District Council. According to the RCMP report, the investigation determined that there was no impropriety on my part.

The report did state however, that I had violated District procedure and policies. When I enquired about the specifics of this charge, I was told by the RCMP that this is not within their jurisdiction. I then asked if this is so, why mention it in the first place? ...a reasonable question one would think.

However, in light of this, I am now asking you as the District CAO to either confirm or deny that I violated District policy when I brought to the attention of both Mayor and Council, including the now Mayor Harris as well as District Staff, that "GO WEST CAMPER" received and continues to receive a lease from the District which is clearly below market and can only be described as a subsidy by the District to a private company.

I would appreciate your response. Specifically, I am asking for your assistance in answering my question how, in my capacity as an elected official sworn to uphold the interests of the public and bringing this matter to the attention of both Mayor and Council and Senior Staff, was a violation of District procedure and/or policies and or alternatively confirm that there was no violation of policy and that to bring such matters to the attention of Mayor and Council and staff, as I have done, is in line with the duties of an elected official.

Thank you,  
Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Ernie Crist  
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2005 7:58 PM  
To: 'Gord TOMLINSON'  
Cc: James Ridge; Mayor and Council - DNV  
Subject: RE:

Dear Superintendent Tomlinson:

With respect - if this is so, than no mention to this effect should have been made in the final report sent to me following the investigation. However, in the report it did state that although the results of the investigation showed no wrong doing on my part, the investigation did show that I had violated existing Council policies and procedures.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gord TOMLINSON [<mailto:gord.tomlinson@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>]  
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2005 2:30 PM  
To: Ernie Crist  
Subject: Re:

Councillor Crist

It is not the mandate of the RCMP to investigate breeches of policies or procedures of Council.

Gord

(G.G. Tomlinson), Supt  
Officer In Charge North Vancouver Det  
147 East 14th Street  
North Vancouver, BC V7L 2N4  
Ph. 604-983-7400 Fax: 983-7434 Pager: 604-667-5405  
email: [gord.tomlinson@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:gord.tomlinson@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

"Ernie Crist" <[ernie\\_crist@dnv.org](mailto:ernie_crist@dnv.org)> 07/22/05 01:59PM >>>

Dear Superintendent Tomlinson:

You may recall that some time ago I requested clarification of a statement made by the Burnaby RCMP concerning allegations against me in connection with the purchase of a Volkswagen Jetta at a North Vancouver Car Dealership. Following the completion of the investigation, you sent a letter stating that the investigation showed that there was no substance to the charges. However, your letter also stated that, notwithstanding these findings, the investigation did show that I had violated Council policies and procedures.

The allegations apparently relate to a land lease agreement between the District of North Vancouver and a private company located in the vicinity of the Capilano Volkswagen Car Dealership on Marine Drive in North Vancouver.

This is the story. The District of North Vancouver, in clear violation of the Municipal Charter and in clear violation of principles of good governance, has and continues to extend a favourable land lease agreement to the owners of this private company. To put it in plain English, the District of North Vancouver has not only provided an unjustified subsidy to this private company but has refused to correct this situation even though it has been brought to the attention of both Council and Senior Staff on several occasions by various community activists and myself.

When I raised this matter with staff I was told that "we cannot kick those people out because they have been with us for many years". My position, in line with my duty, is that giving favourable treatment to any private firm is contrary to the Municipal Charter and is also in violation of our oath of office.

The fact that a private business has been leasing a District property for a long time is irrelevant and so indeed is that Capilano Volkswagen

also wants to lease or buy this property. The issue is not who wants the property but who will pay maximum Dollars to the District taxpayers. The fact that the District management and Council violated this basic principle can only prove they are not fully cognizant of the parameters of their duties and/or there is corruption. We do not have the right to give anybody a reduced rate and, if we do, we must provide a defensible rationale and do so in public.

For me to point this out, as I have done, is not a violation of policies and procedures by any stretch of the imagination. I have raised this issue along with other citizens at both the Council and Senior Management level. I have been stonewalled and in fact harassed. The same is true for other citizens.

Buying a car at a dealership, while insisting that a property adjacent to this dealership be leased to whomsoever is willing to pay the highest price, is not a crime. It is not as if I had suggested that we should lease or sell this property including to Capilano Volkswagen at a reduced or subsidised rate as is being done now with the private business in question. Insisting, as I have, that this subsidy end one way or another, is completely in line with my responsibilities as an elected representative in what appears to be a totally un-businesslike environment.

In light of this, I request that this matter be investigated and that, in any case, my name be cleared from the allegation that I had violated any policy and/or procedure. I am looking forward to your early response.

Thank you.  
Yours truly,

Ernie Crist, Councillor  
District of North Vancouver.