

**Subject:****Date:** Fri, 22 Jul 2005 13:59:29 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <gord.tomlinson@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>**CC:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>

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.



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