

**Subject: FW:****Date:** Fri, 22 Jul 2005 21:19:27 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>**CC:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>

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

>>> "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.

