

# R - E - S - P - E - C - T

## FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

By: Kerry Morris - MAY 28, 2015

It was 1967, and Aretha Franklin had just released an updated R&B version of the Otis Redding hit classic: R-E-S-P-E-C-T. The feminist movement quickly galvanized behind Aretha's version, which became the battle cry for women in every-walk of life seeking social justice by way of equal pay, better and fairer work-place treatment, and an end to sexual harassment and exploitation. Fast forward to today.

The word 'Respect' is bandied about with little consideration for the dual sided nature of the term. Some pull it out with great frequency like a sword, others as if a shield, but all in public office employ it to undermine public process. They want to hear what they want to hear, but what they need to hear, and all other differing opinions are frequently considered disrespectful, and almost always unwelcome. In the City of North Vancouver's case, the term is most often used as a tool to deny public opinion and stifle debate.



When the issues grow more contentious and those seeking better information push harder for disclosure, analysis or explanation, some members of council have begun to bring stronger allegations of wrong-doing, most often characterized as 'Bullying' of staff. The use of this term is intended to stifle debate and even in extreme cases, to single out certain members of the population for discipline. If these tools are unsuccessful, then history shows that some in power believe the next appropriate form of public discipline is intimidation, and when all else fails, a full on public character assassination. Unfortunately, this is the reality we are now living with in the City.

If you were in City council chambers on May 11th 2015 you would have witnessed the first recorded instance of a City councillor conducting a full blown character assassination on a member of the public: (<https://vimeo.com/127739830>). This event is by far the low-water mark in the City Council chamber history.

It is equally important that we draw attention to the speechifying of our Mayor that evening, when he stated that he would no longer tolerate improper conduct by members of the public or council. It would no longer be acceptable to single out or name a party for conduct or to question their motives. Instead, he would dispense discipline with a firm hand. How then was it possible for Keating to conduct a character assassination from his 'Bully-Pulpit' while perch at the council table? At the end of that evenings charade, I asked Mussatto to explain what happened? He first claimed Keating had apologized then moments later he admitted Keating had not!

What has not been admitted by either Keating or Mussatto is that at the time of Keating's attack on me, all of council had in their possession an email delivered by the Clerk, authored by the artist and creator of the Stache comic series. The Stache comics poke fun at the City's menagerie of mis-steps and 'Dirty-Works', all performed by the 'Slate' in pursuit of the Mayors VISION. Keating's tirade essentially accused me of being Stache, the artist and distributor of the comic series. Using this accusation Keating seeks to suppress the ability of residents to appear before council to speak and to question the goings on in our little City.

Keating has been asked to apologize for his untruthful tirade, but thus far has refused: <http://kerrymorris.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Morris-Demands-Apology.pdf>. The Mayor has been asked to compel Keatings apology, but he has also ignored the request. Council must be mindful to practice what it preaches? Respect!