

J. M. LE DRESSAY & ASSOCIATES

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS
20570 - 56th Avenue
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Reply To: J. Michael Le Dressay *

Our File No. 76,688

October 23, 2006

Township of Langley
Municipal Hall
20338-65th Avenue
Langley, B.C.
V2Y 3J1

Attention: Kurt Houlden

Dear Sirs:

Re: Municipal Hotel Room Tax - The Traveller's Hotel

I represent the Traveller's Hotel.

My client has provided me with a copy of a letter that you wrote on October 20, 2006 to the Minister of Finance, a copy of which enclose herewith for your reference.

May I suggest to you that when you choose to correspond with a Government Minister on Township letterhead, you have a responsibility to carefully state the facts. Letters on behalf of a Municipal Corporation naturally carry considerable weight.

In your letter you state the following:

" Mr. Martin leases his property from the Township and the Bed and Breakfast represents four rooms [or approximately 0.7%] of the total within the Township of Langley."

In my respectful view, the only possible reason to include such a statement in your letter is to demean Mr. Martin's contribution to the process and to communicate to the Minister that he is a marginal player whose views deserve limited weight. The statement further implies that Mr. Martin is somehow an unappreciative beneficiary of the Township's largesse. I can determine no other reason why

you would mention that Mr. Martin leases the property on which he conducts his business from the Township.

The Traveller's Hotel is a hotel. It is not a bed and breakfast. In fact, it is the only hotel outside of Vancouver city limits to have received a five-star rating. This is something of which the Township should be very proud.

As to the lease, you must be aware of the substantial financial contribution that the Martins have made to preserve and enhance a valuable piece of Langley's heritage. The underlying lease is nothing more than the Township's contribution to this very laudable joint enterprise undertaken by the Martins and the Township.

May I suggest that a letter to the Minister retracting the implications of your remarks would be in order. May I also suggest that an apology to the Martins would also be in order.

Yours truly,

J. M. LE DRESSAY & ASSOCIATES
Per:

J. Michael LeDressay

cc. Wally Martin
cc. Mayor and Council
cc. Mark Bakken, Municipal Administrator

Encl.



5301-6282

Call Wally Martin

533-5569

October 20, 2006

File No. 6750-20

The Honourable Carole Taylor
Minister of Finance
P.O. Box 9048
Str. Prov. Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Sent Via Fax to: 250 387-5594

Dear Minister:

Re: Proposed Hotel Tax in the Township of Langley

We are in receipt of letters addressed to The Honourable Minister from Mr. Wally Martin, dated October 17 and 19, 2006, regarding the above-referenced topic.

We wish to advise the Minister and her staff of the actual votes cast in the summer of 2006, and forming part of the staff report to Council, introducing a 2% hotel tax in the Township of Langley. In the process of developing a Langley Tourism Strategy, our nine hotels were contacted to determine their support for a possible hotel tax. Five of the nine hotels (representing 55.6% of the properties), responded in favour. Despite numerous contacts, two of the properties did not respond and two of the nine properties (representing 22.2%) were opposed. Those in support of the hotel tax represent 78.5% of the total room inventory in the Township of Langley. Those who did not respond, represent 9.3% and those opposed represent 12.1%, of the total room inventory.

This information was gathered previous to the staff report and proposed bylaw for Township Council's consideration. That information was presented to Council on October 16, 2006. We have enclosed the associated staff report which provides the information and process in further detail.

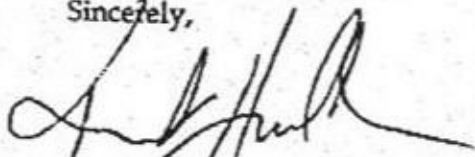
Mr. Martin states in his October 17, 2006 letter that he was excluded from the voting process. I can assure you that Mr. Martin was included in the voting process, albeit later than the other properties and is recorded as one of the only two properties that were opposed. Mr. Martin leases his property from the Township and the Bed and Breakfast represents four rooms (or approximately 0.7%) of the total within the Township of Langley.

The Honourable Carole Taylor
Minister of Finance
October 20, 2006
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This letter is not intended to request support from your Ministry at this time, as our Council is still considering the local hotel tax bylaw. Should the bylaw receive final reading from our Council, we will conclude our process and make appropriate application to the Province.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding our process or validation of the votes provided prior to Council's consideration of a Hotel Tax Bylaw, we would be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,



Kurt Houlton
General Manager
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Encl.

cc: Mayor and Council
Mark Bakken, Municipal Administrator