

Peel Police

Gyles, Cliff

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Gyles arrested for third time

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Already under scrutiny over allegations he defrauded the City and solicited a bribe from a businessman, Mississauga Councillor Cliff Gyles was arrested Wednesday and charged again with demanding money for political influence.

And, much like in the criminal trial set for January regarding eight previous charges, the embattled Ward 6 councillor will be defending himself once again on two new charges of municipal corruption and breach of trust, said his wife Inez yesterday.

"He will be fighting them tooth and nail like he always has," she told *The News*. "This (new charges) is no surprise to me. We knew about this investigation a long time ago. I don't know why they are after my husband."

Peel Police Chief Noel Catney announced the new charges yesterday, which date back to the fall of 1999 and centre around an alleged demand for money from a Malton businessman in exchange for political influence and consideration on a pending property rezoning application.

"It is our position that the approach was made (and) that a considerable sum of money did change hands," said Catney. "These are serious allegations. The alleged conduct of this nature is distressing, it's hurtful, it's disappointing."

Catney refused comment on the amount of money exchanged or the type of business involved.

Charges stem from information provided to police after the first investigation of Gyles concluded in February last

At that time, Gyles, 59, was charged with municipal corruption, breach of trust and fraud against the government, the latter of which was dropped in court earlier this year.

But, on July 18 of last year, Gyles was arrested a second time and charged with several counts of fraud and two counts of perjury.

Peel Regional Police allege Gyles demanded a \$100,000 payoff from a local

businessman last February — similarly, for political influence on a pending property zoning application.

The property owner was seeking to build a funeral home in Malton. The rezoning application has since been approved by council.

Peel Inspector Tom Allen, head of Police Intelligence, said Gyles holds a "powerful position" in regard to rezoning in Malton.

"Dependent upon his assessment of a rezoning application, he could well determine whether that application is completed successfully or not for the business person," said Allen. "If the (alleged) money was not paid, the rezoning may well have difficulties in proceeding."

Although City of Mississauga officials are not commenting on the new charges, Catney said he spoke to high officials within the Mayor's office yesterday.

"They are saddened and disappointed, as I am, that this continuing alleged reflection of misconduct would continue," he said.

The Ontario Supreme Court ruled last year that Gyles can continue to function as both a City of Mississauga and Peel Region councillor while defending the charges in court.

When asked yesterday if her husband will resign, Gyles' wife said: "Why should he resign? What has happened? Nothing. Just lots of charges."

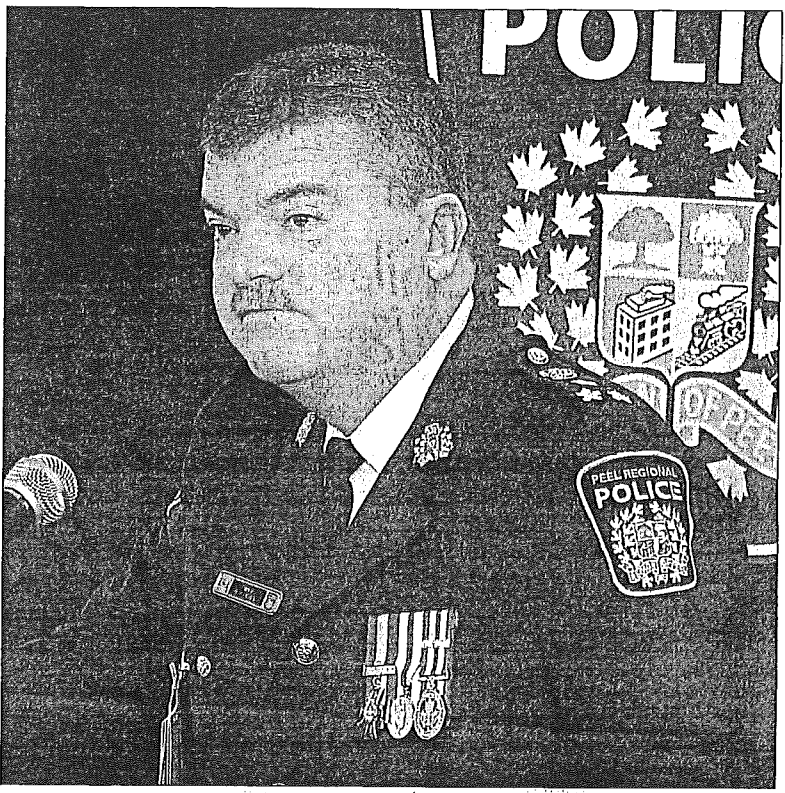
Catney said the complainant involved in Wednesday's charges came forward after his dealings with Gyles "troubled" him for some time.

Allen said police intercepted private communications in the latest charges, but wouldn't elaborate on what materials were used.

Neither Gyles, nor his lawyer, Alan Gold, returned phone calls yesterday.

Gyles was released on stringent bail conditions and will appear in court Dec. 30 to answer the new charges.

The trial for the previous criminal charges begins Jan. 6, and Gyles will also go to trial in January to answer separate charges that he violated municipal election rules during his 2000 election campaign.



Peel Regional Police Chief Noel Catney speaks at a press conference Thursday morning informing the media of further charges against Mississauga city councillor Cliff Gyles. Staff photos by Rob Beinlema



Peel Regional Police Inspector Tom Allen (left), head of Police Intelligence, speaks to reporters following the press conference during which new charges against Ward 5 Councillor Cliff Gyles were announced. Peel Detective Steve Ter Steege (above) led the investigation into the most recent round of charges against Gyles.

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