

# Second witness tells court how Gyles demanded cash

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Staff

A second businessman took to the witness stand in the Cliff Gyles trial Friday, testifying he too was forced into paying the Mississauga councillor a large sum of cash.

Malkit Dhaliwal, owner of New Way Truck Driving School in Mississauga, told Brampton court he was "shocked" when Gyles met up with him at a Tim Hortons in late 1999 and wanted \$20,000 to ensure his rezoning application be approved.

Dhaliwal, who immigrated here from India in 1979, had purchased 5.9 acres of land on Bramalea Rd. in August of 1999.

He wanted to run his business from there, but needed to have the property rezoned since it was then zoned for agriculture.

If the businessman didn't pay the bribe, Gyles told him he would, "sit on agricultural land for the rest of his life," Dhaliwal said.

Although surprised by the demand for money, Dhaliwal told Madam Justice Bonnie Wein this was nothing new to him, and he agreed to pay the bribe.

"I'm from India, and that's how things work in India. If you don't pay...nothing



On Friday court heard a witness describe how he used a tape recorder in conversations with Ward 5 Councillor Cliff Gyles.

happens," he said.

Gyles demanded \$10,000 before the rezoning was approved, and \$10,000 after, according to Dhaliwal's testimony.

He withdrew \$5,000 from his CIBC branch on Jan. 17, 2000, and met with

Gyles that same day, court heard.

Dhaliwal brought a tape recorder with him and hid it inside his jacket pocket during the meeting.

"I wanted to have some kind of proof for myself that I paid him," he told the court.

But after riding with Gyles in his vehicle, the politician refused to accept the payoff, saying he wanted the \$10,000-installment in full, Dhaliwal testified.

The businessman later took out a loan for \$10,000, receiving the cash in \$1,000 bills.

"Mr. Gyles asked me to bring \$1,000 bills only," Dhaliwal told the court. "He didn't want me to mention anything over the phone about the money."

On Feb. 4, 2000, the two met at Country Style Donuts in the area of Derry and Dixie Rds.

Once again, Dhaliwal brought and used his tape recorder.

Dhaliwal got into Gyles' car, and the Ward 5 councillor drove near a school parking lot in Malton, the court heard.

There, the exchange of money took place, testified Dhaliwal.

On the tape, Dhaliwal can be heard counting "One, two, three (up to 10)...exactly 10,000." He asked Gyles,

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## Courtroom hears taped evidence

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"Do you want to count them or no?"

A voice identified as Gyles replied: "That's good enough."

After the exchange, Gyles frisked Dhaliwal, according to testimony and communications from Dhaliwal's tape recorder, which were played before the judge.

Gyles is heard saying, "Man, open your coat. Let me see...open the front of your coat. You never know. You never know with these things."

But despite the frisking, Gyles failed to locate the tape recorder, court heard.

Dhaliwal didn't go to police with the bribery allegation until October 2001 — 18 months after the incident and six months after Gyles was arrested in connection with another demand for money.

When Dhaliwal went to police, he had yet to obtain his rezoning.

Gyles, 59, is also charged with accepting a bribe of \$25,000 from funeral home owner Rick Benisasia, in relation to another rezoning application.

Benisasia testified earlier this month that he handed Gyles the money, which was provided to him by police when he informed them of the politician's demand.

Gyles has pleaded not guilty in both incidents.

The trial doesn't resume until May 27.

Peel Bios.  
Gyles, Cliff

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