

Northern Advocate 24th September 2010

Recently we observed the admission by two regional councillors of their attempt to influence the outcome of the Whangarei District Council elections by asking two mayoral candidates to step aside; first offering one the position of deputy mayor and the other a top position on council if their chosen candidate was elected as mayor. By reducing the number of candidates, it would give their chosen candidate a greater chance of unseating the incumbent Mayor, Stan Semenov.

The reason could only be to get a more compliant and malleable mayor leading the district council, one who would be less likely to push for the abolition of the regional council and thus their jobs. This may not be corruption of the highest order; however, it should be rigorously condemned.

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(abridged)