

cc'd - Bocc; Euler; O'Donnell
McCall; Silliman



CP16#0492

Clark County Board of Councilors
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

January 12, 2015

Re: Growth Management Act Rural Character Equals Rural Culture


Dear Councilors,

Growth Management Act **RCW 36.70A.011 Findings - Rural lands** - states, "The legislature finds that this chapter is intended to recognize the importance of rural lands and rural character to Washington's economy, its people, and its environment, while respecting regional differences."

36.70.030 Definitions - states, (15) "Rural Character" refers to the patterns of land use and development established by a county in the rural element of its comprehensive plan. (b) That foster traditional rural lifestyles,(f) That generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services..... (16) "Rural development" refers to development outside the urban growth area and outside agricultural, forest, and mineral resource land....." Rural development can consist of a variety of uses and residential densities, including clustered residential development, at levels that are consistent with the preservation of rural character and the requirements of the rural element. Rural development does not refer to agriculture or forestry activities that may be conducted in rural areas. (17) "Rural governmental services" or "rural services" includes those public services and public facilities historically and typically delivered at an intensity usually found in rural areas.... These instructions are what Clark County is directed to do by the legislature.

Webster's College Dictionary defines "character" as "the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of a person or thing". It defines "culture" as "the sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another." It also defines "lifestyle" as "the typical way of living, reflecting attitudes, preferences, etc. of an individual or group."

The terms patterns, features, traits, and ways are synonymous. The terms differences, aggregate, and sum total indicate a collection of features, traits and ways. In 1994, Clark County adopted a Comprehensive Plan that destroyed the rural character, rural lifestyle, culture and economy of the rural people living in the rural areas. At the same time, the urban lifestyle, culture and economy was enhanced by giving the rural people's land to the urban people via zoning and regulation. Unlike urban cultures, rural people depend on their land for their lifestyle and existence, just as many other cultures, such as the Indians, depend on the land. In order for Clark County to comply with the statutory requirements of the GMA, the county must return the character, culture, lifestyle and economy, that was in place long before the GMA, back to the rural people again.

Sincerely, 

Carol Levanen, Ex. Secretary
Clark County Citizens United, Inc.
P.O. Box 2188
Battle Ground, Washington 98604

O'Donnell, Mary Beth

From: Tilton, Rebecca
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:48 PM
To: Euler, Gordon
Cc: Cook, Christine; Orjiako, Oliver; McCall, Marilee; O'Donnell, Mary Beth; Silliman, Peter
Subject: *C. Levanen's written testimony (1/13/15 BOCC Hearing)*
Attachments: Carol Levanen_01-13-15.pdf

Hello Gordy,

Attached is a copy of Carol Levanen's written comments submitted during public comment on Jan. 13, 2015.

Rebecca