



# Council considers Madore's Facebook page

## He wrote post alleging staff wrongdoing; council declines to pursue criminal investigation of the allegation

By **Katie Gillespie (/author/katiegillespie)**, Columbian County Government Reporter

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(<http://www.columbian.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/council.jpg>)

The Clark County council, from left, Jeanne Stewart, Julie Olson, Chair Marc Boldt, David Madore and Tom Mielke.

Document

### Chuck Green's ethics complaint against David Madore

(<http://www.columbian.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/GREENCOMPLAINT.pdf>)



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David Madore's digital world trickled into the real world Tuesday, as the Clark County council discussed a Facebook post the Republican councilor made alleging wrongdoing by county staff and posing the question of whether staff should face a criminal investigation.



In a Facebook post made Monday, Madore echoed claims he made last month that Community Planning staff have "covertly used" software to "erroneously inflate" the number of lots created by his controversial zoning proposal for the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, Alternative 4.

"I am convinced these blatant lies will be made plain when the citizens defend their rights in court," Madore wrote.

But Madore's allegations — which are also the subject of a complaint by a former council candidate — prompted Chief Deputy Prosecutor Chris Horne to ask the council if it wanted to launch a criminal investigation into county planning staff.

"Given the seriousness of the allegations of criminal behavior, our office will consider referring this matter for an independent investigation into the allegations of Councilor Madore if the council wishes," Horne told the council Tuesday.

He added, however, that county planning staff has not used the type of software Madore has accused it of using. County planning staff said the same thing last week when the council selected its preferred alternative to the 20-year growth plan.

Madore, however, said he only wants the truth about how county staff calculated the number of lots created by Alternative 4.

But it's not as simple as that, Horne said.

"Your comment is that somebody is responsible for making a false or misleading statement to you as a public servant," Horne said. "That's a crime. Just trying to get at the truth is a completely different concern."

Madore's fellow councilors — except for Republican Tom Mielke, who was out sick — showed no interest in investigating county staff.

Chair Marc Boldt, no party preference, said that as long as the county council continues to allow one councilor to accuse staff of illegal activity, it's essentially "impugning (the) reputation and education" of county staff.

"To me, that is putting the county in a rough spot and making us almost liable for a hostile work environment," Boldt said.

Councilor Jeanne Stewart, a Republican, said that under the Home Rule Charter, it's not up to the county council to assess county staff. That responsibility falls to the executive branch.

"It is an illegal activity for this council to do performance analyses of the employees," she said. "I think we need to be mindful and careful of that."

Ultimately, Stewart, Boldt and Republican Julie Olson turned down Home's offer to pursue an independent criminal investigation.

Madore, meanwhile, was the sole voice of support.

"Yes, because it really has to do with whether we're going to establish the truth," he said.

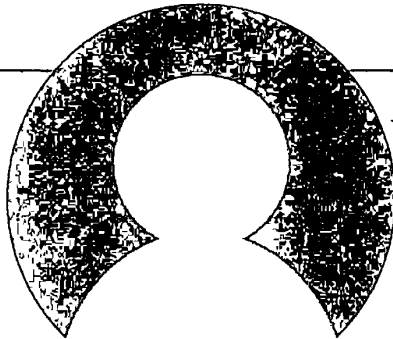
## Question of ethics

A former Clark County council candidate also raised an issue with Madore's Facebook post, accusing the councilor of violating the council's code of ethics in his attacks on county planning staff.

Democrat Chuck Green, who ran for the District 2 council seat and lost to Olson last fall, said in an email to the county that Madore, in his Facebook post Monday, made a number of "unfounded accusations that are libelous in nature and are contributing to a hostile work environment for staff at the county, in this case Community Planning staff."

In his complaint, Green calls on the county to form an ethics committee to investigate Madore's behavior and possibly offer a recommendation of censure and removal from all boards and committees.

"What I'd really like to see him do is — force him to apologize publicly to county staff," Green said. "He's defaming county staff and he doesn't seem to care."

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## 3 Comments

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**Thom Rasmussen** · Salmon Creek, Washington

Well, there is the truth and then there is Madore's truth "and never the twain shall meet".

Reply · 1 · 35 mins · Edited

**John M. Kowalski** · Camas, Washington

Madore must go.

Reply · 1 hr

**Ed Rutledge** · Salem, Oregon

Skip the apology request. Madore should be ordered by the County Chair to apologize. To make this happen (since Boldt/McCauley are too weak to do it on their own), County staff should do two things:

- File a grievance based on discipline without just cause by a superior. In this case the discipline would be false accusations and public humiliation. The grievance should be run out to the arbitration level - remembering that in matters of discipline the employer has the burden of proof. Let the County prove Madore's accusations or have the County Chair order Madore to retract and apologize.
- File class action litigation against Madore as an individual for defamation. Ask for damages for each employee in the Planning Department.

Reply · 1 · 1 hr

**Michele Wollert**

Washington state threw out its anti-Slapp legislation (look it up) a year or so ago, making defamation suits less legally onerous. I like your suggestion, too, of an employee grievance. But I really like Chuck Green's suggestion of an independent Ethics Committee to protect against frivolous, politically-motivated accusations like Madore (and other politicians like him) loves to make on a regular basis.

Madore makes many serious, but reckless (he has no credible evidence) accusations that rose recently to declaring two or more employees actually broke the law. How do they recover their reputations after something like that? Many people who read his propaganda, especially those who are not familiar with the Madore modus operandi, will only remember the allegations, and not the defense of those allegations. Careers can be ruined. Income lost. Families destroyed.

What are the consequences to David Madore? Only political gain from his small group of supporters. And even the most vocal among that group has backed off this latest

controversy. For good reason. They could be next.

Reply · 10 mins · Edited



**David Clark**

Hey, chuck, where were you when Jeff Hamm presented the Trimet contract to the C-Tran board in a manner that no one realized it was there (except of course those in on the deception)?

Reply · 3 hrs



**Thom Rasmussen** · Salmon Creek, Washington

another squirrel!!!!

Reply · 46 mins



**Michele Wollert**

It is only minutes after the end of tonight's meeting, and the good Councilor Madore, still promoting his version of the truth (the one he will shop til he drops for) is back at it. Again. FB demonizing the prosecuting attorney and planning staff. Canonizing "truth-telling" GIS staff. It's a plot conflict only surpassed by House of Cards. Problem is, we are not dealing with high-paid actors. Madore's endless accusation cycles continue to do great harm. To the staff. To the county and its shaky reputation. To the citizens who must watch this psychological abuse unfold before their incredulous eyeballs.

We need an investigation of David Madore, not of county staff members. So, who at the county is willing to start the ball rolling?

Reply · 👍 5 · 9 hrs · Edited



**Neil Pope**

Has Madore started talking about strawberries yet? . . . Is a rolling a couple of ball-bearings around in his hand?

Reply · 👍 5 · 11 hrs



**Kyle Greenwood**

Man... that's a great reference...

Reply · 👍 2 · 7 hrs



**John M. Kowalski** · Camas, Washington

BTW, I downloaded that Excel file, that Madore tried to mystify. It consists of a bunch of SQL queries mapped into Excel, along with some tables. That's what I've seen so far. No smoking gun. Not in the least.

Madore is relying on his base to be ignorant of the most elementary of modern business software to get their applause for his imitation of Captain Ahab or something like that, albeit a Captain Ahab transmuted into a Clark County governmental idiom.

Why?

I could make a 50s era French absurdist movie based on this. The French could, too.

Oh, I also wrote the Clark County Councilors, recommending the reprimand or resignation of David Madore.

I think it's important to let the County Councilors, busy as they are, including those busy banning people from their "newspapers," just how we feel about their performance. As their employers.

Reply ·  3 · 11 hrs · Edited



**Lorretta Thomas**

ex·as·per·a·tion

/ig,zaspə'rāSH(ə)n/

noun: exasperation; plural noun: exasperations

a feeling of intense irritation or annoyance.

"she rolled her eyes in exasperation"

synonyms: irritation, annoyance, vexation, anger, fury, rage, ill humor, crossness, testiness, tetchiness;

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