September, 21, 2014

Dear Commissioners,

The Clark County Planning Staff presented information regarding the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update Scoping on four evenings, August 20, 21, 27 and 28, 2014. Following those meetings, the comment period ended on September 1, 2014, which was part of the Labor Day week-end. Only one day was allowed for comment, following the August 28 meeting, because of the week-end. Comments submitted on-line were limited to 500 characters. The information from those meetings are now to be presented to the Board of Commissioners on September 24, 2014 at a SEPA Scoping and Path Forward work session. In the staff report, it states that 38 comments were received, 21 via email and 17 via open house. Clark County Citizens United, Inc. believes the list is inaccurate and incomplete. Two of CCCU, Inc. Board members were in attendance at all of the meetings and heard the comments from the public. In particular two comments stand out, that are not included in the listed scoping comments.

One comment was at the Camas, Washington meeting, where a man asked spokesperson, Gordy Euler when the county was going to make rural lots compliant, or something to that effect. Mr. Euler questioned the man over his comments as to what he meant and he then said, "What I mean is, I own five acres and I am in a twenty acre zone and my neighbor owns five acres in a forty acre zone, that's what I mean." He then indicated that he and his neighbor should be in a five acre zone.

Following that, a member of CCCU raised her hand to speak. Mr. Euler asked her if she was going to speak about the process. She replied that she raised her hand to submit a comment. He then let her speak. Neither of these comments were included in the 38 comments made available to the public and the commissioners.

The public process was severely lacking in the scoping of the 2016 Comp Plan Update. There was very little notice regarding the meetings which were conducted in the cities of Vancouver, Camas, Ridgefield and Battle Ground. There was little opportunity for those in the unincorporated areas to give input. Even if they would have submitted email comments, they were not given enough information to do so. The ability for comment was severely restricted as to the public outreach and to the number of words that could be submitted, because of the character limitations. When two members of the public complained at a commissioner hearing, there was discussion about allowing more time for comment, but that did not materialize.

Nothing meaningful came from these scoping meetings. They were just an exercise in futility to justify the activity. The SEPA process is an important process in any comprehensive plan. To simply say that the county will use the old EIS and then do a Supplemental EIS, with no real input from the people the proposal will impact, does not comply with the public process requirements or the purpose of the Growth Management Act, that requires early and meaningful public participation.

Sincerely,

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

From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 11:39 AM
To: Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose; O’Donnell, Mary Beth
Cc: Cook, Christine
Subject: FW: 2016 Comp Plan Update - Scoping - This testimony to be placed into the public record

FYI

From: McCauley, Mark
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 10:40 AM
To: Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Fwd: 2016 Comp Plan Update - Scoping - This testimony to be placed into the public record

Oliver, this was discussed in the consent hearing today.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Madore, David" <David.Madore@clark.wa.gov>
Date: September 23, 2014 at 10:36:06 AM PDT
To: "McCauley, Mark" <Mark.McCauley@clark.wa.gov>, "Orjiako, Oliver" <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: 2016 Comp Plan Update - Scoping - This testimony to be placed into the public record

Gentlemen, FYI

Anna for Commissioner Madore

From: Carol Levanen [mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2014 1:47 AM
To: Barnes, Ed; Mielke, Tom; Madore, David; Carol Levanen; Susan Rasmussen; Leah Higgins; Rick Dunning; Rita Dietrich; Jerry Olson; Fred Pickering; Jim Malinowski; Frank White; Benjamin Moss; Lonnie Moss; Melinda Zamora; Nick Redinger; Curt Massie; Marcus Becker; Clark County Citizens United Inc.
Subject: 2016 Comp Plan Update - Scoping - This testimony to be placed into the public record

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