The attached written testimony was received from Carol Levanen and Susan Rasmussen during the public comment portion of the 9/01/15 BOCC hearing.

Thank you,
Rebecca
Sprawl is defined by Webster's Dictionary, as “to spread or develop irregularly or without restraint.” This definition implies negative environmental and human health impacts associated with sprawl. Clark County does not support sprawl, but rather development of rural land that is consistent with the historic density patterns, considers the protections of the natural resources and critical areas, and encourages orderly growth patterns. This type of rural development is not sprawl, but rather follows the historic patterns of rural living in Clark County with larger lot sizes used for residential living alongside agricultural and forestry activities or clustered lots with areas of large fields.

It is common to find rural development occurring adjacent to built infrastructure such as roads, power, water, electricity, and churches. This type of development is not sprawl, but follows the historical patterns of rural living on larger residential lot sizes in Clark County that have resulted from cultural rural practices. This cultural practice limited fragmentation of rural families and had been supported by the County.
Major Land Use Considerations: Clark County has traditionally supported small-scale agriculture activities by ensuring a variety of various parcel sizes.

Large scale commercial agricultural operations continue to decline, however, changes in agriculture activities to vineyards, nurseries, berries, and organic produce have been evolving. This agriculture shift reflects the larger changes happening throughout the entire state. Many of the new agricultural activities can and are occurring on smaller parcels (reference 2012 Ag. Census). Indeed, Clark County has always been a haven supporting small-scale farming (1950 Ag. Census). The long-term changes in agricultural operations will be influenced in large part by the economic and market demands. It is Clark County's tradition to provide for a wide variety of farming opportunities by ensuring a variety of various parcel sizes.

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Carol Levanen
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 6:23 PM
To: susan rasmussen
susan rasmussen

Re: Rural Community Vision Statement

1. Encourage an economic climate that enables our rural communities to find family wage jobs within the rural area.
2. Protection of private property rights of landowners.
3. Ensure adequate housing that fulfills the housing needs and lifestyles of all segments of the county’s population.
4. Future development that will compliment and enhance historic patterns of development.
5. Respect rural cultural practices.
6. Acknowledge local trends in the agricultural and forestry industries.
7. Enhance rural quality of life.

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Carol Levanen
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 6:23 PM
To: susan rasmussen