

In Our View: Embarrassment to the County

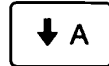
Councilor Madore spurns compromise, attacks those who disagree with him

By

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David Madore's latest diatribe against those who disagree with his methods is unbecoming for a county councilor and an embarrassment for those who support him.



In relation to a council debate last week about the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, Madore unceremoniously attacked county planning staff on the Facebook page that he prefers to call a "newspaper." Madore, a Republican, accused staff of having an "anti-rural growth agenda," of using "covert software" and of manipulating records to "grossly inflate" the number of developments in rural Clark County for the county's 20-year growth plan.

Among the accusations, the manipulation of records would be the most disturbing. If Madore has evidence of this, by all means, he should come forth with it in the proper forum — rather than a 1 a.m. Facebook post. But the suspicion is that the councilor simply is unable to abide by those who do not adhere to his view of how the county should be run. Judging from Madore's actions as a councilor, compromise and dissent conflict with the megalomania that is inherent in his style of governing.

All of that led County Planning Director Oliver Onjako to say during a public council meeting: "Do not, sir, falsely accuse planning staff of denial or covertly presenting information. I have worked here for over 20 years. I have been honest. I have very, very talented staff. No one has ever misled any commissioners."

Madore's insistence upon denigrating anybody who disagrees with him is shameful. As a councilor, he has picked fights with city governments, with business groups, with other councilors and even with the Humane Society. Anybody who dares to question his opinions is subject to attack and accusation, and county residents have been poorly served by this strategy.

The fact is that governing requires compromise and the building of coalitions. As Abraham Lincoln reputedly said, "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" Such an approach apparently is beyond the purview of Madore, who rather than argue his points on their merits prefers to disparage anybody who has the temerity to question him.

Such was the case as the council considered Alternative 4 to the growth management plan, an alternative that Madore unilaterally devised without input from planners or land-use experts. The legality of the plan, which was approved by the then-three-person county commission in December, has been called into question by land-use experts but has gained support from some rural residents. On Tuesday, the now five-person council overturned the designation of Madore's plan as the preferred alternative.

Councilor Jeanne Stewart said the decision was based in part upon concerns that Alternative 4 would violate state law: "If we believe those state laws impede healthy, logical and progressive growth in the county, then we need to get our lobbyists working on those." But, for now, following the law must be one of the goals of the council.

For Madore, that rejection of his proposal amounts to an attack upon the property rights of rural landowners. It is a conclusion that is childish in its reasoning and arrogant in its interpretation. As councilor Julie Olson said, "To couch it in, we're for or against private property rights, it's just not reasonable."

Instead, Madore embraces a view that leaves no room for gray area, no room for compromise, no room for the subtlety that is required to effectively govern. And his ineffectiveness is an embarrassment for the county.

11 Comments

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Richard Bullington · Aspiring Genealogist at Retired

Kudos to Rory Bowman for this cogent and complete history of David Madore. I particularly appreciate the reference to "Dominationist Christianity". When he wears that pin with the American flag enclosed within a cross he is (perhaps unwittingly, but I doubt that) stating clearly that he believes the Constitution and laws of the United States ought to be modeled on Christian doctrine.

How is this any different from a Muslim saying that they ought to be modeled after sharia law? Seriously. Just because you, dear reader, happen to believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the one and only Son of God does not make you or any of his other followers any better governors of a secular nation than any other religion's members. In fact, it was agnostics like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams who were the most influential in creating the framework of our country.

Caveat: I am fully aware that there are a bunch of Muslim thugs in the world right now, but twelve hundred years ago Muslims were the keepers of everything from the Classical period in a "caliphate" which was for the time quite tolerant. Yes, it was expanding: like the other two Abrahamic religions Islam has its version of "Go ye unto all the Nations and preach the Gospel". And don't say, "Well they used swords to convert people!" Yes, they did, but so did Christians as recently as the 19th Century.

Sure, there are crazy Muslims who do horrid things to one another and to non-believers, but there were crazy Christians who did similar horrid things to each other and to Muslims four hundred to twelve hundred years ago. The people of Western Europe were (finally) appalled by the results and have since then made efforts to accept other religions as valuable. It didn't completely stop the inhumanity that has marred Western Europe's history for two millennia -- cf. the Holocaust -- but at least it moved the rancor out of the religious part of life.

And bottom line, it was WE Americans who exploded two nuclear warheads over Japanese cities largely populated by women, children and aged people.

As a demonstration it was extremely effective, so much so that in seventy years no one has yet repeated it. But it was hardly "loving our enemy", was it?

Reply ·  1 · 12 hrs · Edited



Stuart L. Riley · Vancouver, Washington

Let's just admit it. Madore's a psychopath.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/.../the-startling.../260517/>

Reply ·  2 · 19 hrs · Edited



Rory Bowman

From the article linked above:

"Psychopathy is a psychological condition based on well-established diagnostic criteria, which include lack of remorse and empathy, a sense of grandiosity, superficial charm, conning and manipulative behavior, and refusal to take responsibility for one's actions, among others. Psychopaths are not all the same; particular aspects may predominate in different people. And, although some psychopaths are violent men (and women) with long criminal histories, not all are."

Reply · 13 hrs



John M. Kowalski · Camas, Washington

Madore should resign and do the honorable thing, but he is a dishonorable man.

Reply · 30 mins · Edited



Rory Bowman

When a person is convinced they are chosen and anointed by God, conventional senses of honor or morality don't apply. There is every appearance that David Madore honestly believes that he is acting with the direct sanction and approval of God, however indistinguishable that God may be from Madore's narcissistic ego.

Reply · 3 · 13 hrs · Edited



Peter Adrian · The Evergreen State College

It's no wonder to me that more people don't want to get involved with politics on a local level when it is a cesspool such as this.

Reply · 3 · 21 hrs



Randy English · Clark College -- Vancouver, Washington

Business men are great at running Kingdoms but not great at governing by democracy

Reply · 10 · 22 hrs



Rory Bowman

David Madore is a figurehead.

I don't know of anyone in the business community who has spoken well of his managerial or business expertise, and certainly nothing he has said shows any substantive understanding of how most conventional businesses run and function.

If US Digital is profitable, I would venture it has very little to do with David Madore, which is probably a key reason it is so "closely held."

If Madore had any serious or substantive business accomplishments of his own, I cannot imagine him being so quiet about them. He is astonishingly vague and opaque about his company, its history and growth, in a way that does not seem consistent with his general

character.

Reply ·  1 · 13 hrs · Edited



Porter Grove · Vancouver, Washington

Totally agree.

Reply ·  1 · 22 hrs



Rory Bowman

There is nothing in David Madore's biography to suggest that he was ever a good fit for governing anything. He was drafted into the US Navy, was he not, after which he had a few electronics jobs and then ended up working at Trinity Broadcasting in Orange County, helping to grow the cynically exploitive cable televangelism genre? He was run as a "stealth candidate" for school board in Orange County, as part of a Reagan-era Moral Majority "farm team" plan, but lost and then was later reinvented as some sort of self-made electronics genius. He is neither self-made, nor a genius, but rather a charismatic figurehead and photogenic frontman, who can uses someone else's playbook, fueled by his deep narcissism.

I doubt that David Madore has a lot of insight into anything other than his own ego and desires, and honestly doubt he has enough bandwidth to understand that late-century Orange County is not the "normal" way to run everything. He is small and provincial and mostly incorrigible in the original sense: incapable of correction. The man has no discernible interest in learning anything or about anyone that does not meet his own, immediate needs for self-gratification, and I will be glad when he stops pleasuring himself so prominently in public.

David Madore is beyond an embarrassment, but exactly the sort of condemnation which Clark County's inattention deserved. May his legacy be one of greater civil engagement, sanity and maturity across the community.

Reply ·  19 · 20 hrs · Edited



Teresa Thorsen · Vancouver, Washington

I'm not sure where Madore came from.....but can he please just go back!!!!

Reply ·  4 · 22 hrs



Thom Rasmussen · Salmon Creek, Washington

So. Cal.

Reply ·  2 · 20 hrs



Rory Bowman

He was a television engineer of some sort at Trinity Broadcasting in Orange County, run in the early 1980's as a school-board candidate during the Jerry Falwell "stealth candidate" campaigns of that era. The basic plan was to run a lot of evangelical Christians into "quiet" positions where they would build political credibility and advance "culture war" topics such as prayer in schools, anti-evolution, "abstinence only" sex mis-education and the like. He lost, and then was later set up with US Digital and sent north to begin building a political

operation here.

His early attempts mostly centered on LifePAC.org, but that never really caught on. He flailed at a few different ideas before gaining traction with his nihilistic NoTolls.com NIMBYism. Pretty much everything about him is trying to create a "conservative" Orange-County style empire here, in keeping with his Dominionist Christianity.

Reply ·  7 · 20 hrs · Edited



Thom Rasmussen · Salmon Creek, Washington

Right on the mark. The sooner he's gone the better and he can take his shadow with him.

Reply ·  13 · 23 hrs



Rory Bowman

There is a strong argument to be made that David Madore *is* Clark County's shadow, in the psychological sense that Jung used. He is the denied and maladaptive part of our self-righteous, smug and over-inflated cultural ego: an embodiment of clueless white privilege and US exceptionalism, accountable to no one but its own narcissistic sense of "manifest destiny" and dominion over all other groups and living things.

The guy is like a sprawling, psychological Anaheim, complete with Disneyland and other shallowed, manufactured, illusory and unsavory influences. Suburban sprawl and strip malls are how he expresses his highest cultural and spiritual ideal.

Reply ·  6 · 20 hrs · Edited



Thom Rasmussen · Salmon Creek, Washington

Rory Bowman , I was refering to Meilke, but OK, that works too.

Reply ·  3 · 19 hrs



Rory Bowman

Mielke I don't understand.

Reply ·  1 · 13 hrs · Edited



Marc Lein · Vancouver, Washington

"Embarrassment to the County"...I thought this was about Lou and the Columbian

Reply ·  1 · 23 hrs



Thom Rasmussen · Salmon Creek, Washington

Then I would say you have trouble with reading comprehension and reality.

Reply ·  16 · 23 hrs



Marc Lein · Vancouver, Washington

Thom Rasmussen Then I would say Thank you for the reminder to block another of your ilk

Reply · 21 hrs



Chris Prothero · Columbia Basin College

Marc Lein A very Madore-esque move...put your fingers in your ears and mumble "la la la...I can't hear you...". How very adult of you.

Reply · 6 · 20 hrs



Kent Bott

This pathetic joke ... aka David Madore has been an embarrassment since the day he was first elected ... its time to send his Trump-like ego back to the private sector where only his employees have to bow down to him..

Reply · 18 · Feb 28, 2016 7:04am

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