Bombers may have rushed attack

Same cell may have attacked Brussels, Paris
By RAF CASERT and ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press
BRUSSELS — As police hunted for the surviving Brussels bomber, the same Islamic State cell carried out the attacks in both Paris and Brussels, and that the militants may have launched this week’s slaughter in haste because they feared authorities were closing in on them.

On a day of mourning across Belgium following Tuesday’s bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that killed 31 people and wounded more than 200, new information emerged about the four attackers.

European security officials said one of the suicide bombers was Naji Laachaoui, a Moroccan-born Belgian whom police have hunted as the suspected bomber in the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris by the Islamic State that killed 130 people.

The other two suicide bombers were Belgian-born brothers, the brother, Khalid, both known to the police as common criminals, not

Local Angle

The Islamic Society of Southwest Washington released the following statement on Wednesday.

"As the followers of the teachings of Allah (the Queen) and the Prophet Muhammad, we are against the Brussels Airport bombing. There is no place in our religion the justification for the killing of innocents. We totally denounce this misguided and evil act."

Fisher House dedicated at VA

Photos by AMANDA CONNER/The Columbian
Tracy and Teresa Phillips leave the new Fisher House after attending the dedication ceremony Wednesday. The Fisher House program aided the family after their nephew, Sgt. John Kyle Daggett, was mortally wounded in Iraq in 2008. The family made a $10,000 donation to the program in his memory.

Facility at Vancouver campus provides lodging to families of service members, veterans

By TOM VOGT
Columbian staff writer

Wednesday’s ribbon-cutting ceremony was not the first time Theresa Mason has been in a Fisher House. It probably won’t be her last.

Mason had several stays in a Fisher House while her husband, an Army veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was undergoing spinal cord treatment in Seattle.

She was on Vancouver’s Veterans Affairs campus Wednesday for the dedication of the newest Fisher House.

“I wanted to participate in something that has meant so much,” Mason said.

“It’s a fulfilling moment.”

And when Mason returns, it will be

FISHER HOUSE, Page A2

Edie Kassab ordered to pay $1.8 million in Battle Ground cinema contract dispute

BRUSSELS, Page A2

Madore focus of Orjiako charges

County planning chief faces whistle-blower, harassment complaints

By KATHY GILLESPIE
Columbian staff writer

Clark County’s planning director has filed whistle-blower and harassment complaints against Councilor David Madore, citing the councilor’s involvement in the county’s 20-year growth plan and his accusations that planning staff lied to promote their own agenda.

The five-page complaint, filed on Oliver Orjiako’s behalf by Vancouver attorney Greg Ferguson, describes an environment of discrimination and harassment against the community planning director, who has been with Clark County for more than 25 years.

In the complaint filed March 15, Ferguson accuses Madore

COMPLAINTS, Page A2

Did You Know?

[Redacted]

FISHER HOUSE, Page A2
Complaints
From Page A1
of "single-handedly com-
mandeering the usual func-
tions of the planning de-
partment," of using a "bully pulpit" to harass and intimi-
date Orjako, and of creating a dual Nigerian-
United-States citizenship, less favorably to other white
male department heads."
Spurred by his attorney this week, Orjako told The Columbian he feels he's been unfairly targeted for simply standing up to Madore through the coun-
ty's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update process. Madore's contro-
versial "Alternative 4," Altern-
tative 4, and related plan-
ing framework introduced by the councillor violates the Growth Management Act and is "unlawful," he said.
Madore did not return a request for comment, but he has accused Orjako and county staff in Facebook posts, for the days and in a Jan. 27 op-ed piece in The Reflector, Battle Ground's weekly newspaper, of pro-
viding false data to the cou-
ty council in order to pro-
mote "anti-rural growth" ac-
punt.
"I'm saying that right, for my staff, for folks that I have worked with," Orjako said. "There's no
reason for this to be hang-
ning over my head and hang-
ning over my staff's heads."
Whistle-blower
In the report, Ferguson details Orjako's complaints about Madore's "silly efforts" to de-
velop Alternative 4, a zoning proposal that would have allowed for small lot sizes in rural Clark County. The council over-
turned Alternative 4 earlier this year.
Ferguson argues that Madore has stepped on the role of the planning depart-
ment, "alienated staff" and "pre-empted public par-
ticipation," violations of the Growth Management Act and Clark County's home rule charter.
The complaint alleges that Madore has worked to engage with and hire outside consultants who "he hopes will deviate from" the Growth Management Act.
Ferguson goes on to write that Madore retailed against Orjako for attempting to oppose these efforts. Madore has accused the county of using "cover software" to "glossily inflate" how many lots Alternative 4 could cre-
ate in order to promote an "anti-rural growth agenda," according to a Feb. 22 Face-
book post by the Republican
councilor.
But Orjako has done just the opposite, Ferguson wrote, saying the plan-
ing director has worked to make the process more what he called "right, for my staff, for folks that I have worked with." Orjako told The Columbian he feels he's been unfairly targeted for simply standing up to Madore through the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update process. Madore's controversial "Alternative 4," Alternative 4, and related planning framework introduced by the council violate the Growth Management Act and is "unlawful," he said.
Madore did not return a request for comment, but he has accused Orjako and county staff in Facebook posts, for the days and in a Jan. 27 op-ed piece in The Reflector, Battle Ground's weekly newspaper, of providing false data to the county council in order to promote "anti-rural growth" agenda.
"I'm saying that right, for my staff, for folks that I have worked with," Orjako said. "There's no reason for this to be hanging over my head and hanging over my staff's heads."
Whistle-blower
In the report, Ferguson details Orjako's complaints about Madore's "silly efforts" to develop Alternative 4, a zoning proposal that would have allowed for small lot sizes in rural Clark County. The council overturned Alternative 4 earlier this year.
Ferguson argues that Madore has stepped on the role of the planning department, "alienated staff" and "pre-empted public participation," violations of the Growth Management Act and Clark County's home rule charter.
The complaint alleges that Madore has worked to engage with and hire outside consultants who "he hopes will deviate from" the Growth Management Act.
Ferguson goes on to write that Madore retaliated against Orjako for attempting to oppose these efforts. Madore has accused the county of using "cover software" to "glossily inflate" how many lots Alternative 4 could create in order to promote an "anti-rural growth agenda," according to a Feb. 22 Facebook post by the Republican councilor.
But Orjako has done just the opposite, Ferguson wrote, saying the planning director has worked to make the process more
Population
From Page A1
population has grown 8.02 percent since 2010.
"Whatever you guys are doing, it looks like you're doing it well," said Peter Buresi, a demographer with the Washington, D.C.-based Census Bureau.
Net migration peaked in Clark County in 2004, Buresi said, when the county netted 5,037 new people. Then, it dipped to a low of 2,443 newcomers in 2012.
"Now, it looks like it's on upswing again," he said.
Clark County is not among the fastest-grow-
ing counties in the nation. Counties in Texas and North Dakota are seeing rapid growth. However, median household income is small; McKenzie County, N.D., where the popula-
tion is just 12,836, gained 1,043 people, which is an increase of 16.65 percent.
In terms of sheer num-
ers increased through the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, Ore., area is seen as one of the fron-
t runners. The metro area increased 19th in the nation and gained an estimated 46,921 people from 2010 to 2015, putting it at 2,248,228 people.
Between 2010 and 2015, the population of the Port-
land-Vancouver-Hillsboro, Ore., area grew 3.23 percent. So, Clark County has grown a bit faster than the rest of the metro area.
Area 10,2012 Baca-
leva area saw even bigger-
ner gains, 20.4 percent in 2014 and 19.07% in 2015. That area's population is 3,735,580.
Patty Hartung: 360-
583-2979, patty@hau-
ting@comin.com

Fisher House
From Page A1
as a volunteer.
"I want to be a part of it," said Mason, whose daughter, Emma, was born
in 2013. "If I can bring a smile to someone's face, that's what I want.
The program provides a home away from home for families of medical
or veterans receiving medical care. With tempo-
rary free lodging, families can be close to the military
and VA medical centers
creating their loved ones.
Being close also means family members can be part of
that treatment.
"You play an active role," said Mason, a resident of Beaverton, Ore. She was
the wife of an injured vet. The family members were trying to re-
callate his brain," Coker said.
"I was just asking, "What did we do last night?" Depending on his answer, she knew if he was doing OK that morn-
ing or had had two weeks.
Coker said.

Oregon Megabucks Jackpot winner? No
Jackpot winner? No
Next drawing: Saturday
Next jackpot: $3 million
Oregon Hot Shoe: 20-23-25-43
Oregon Hot Shoe: 1 p.m.: 3-26-6-4-13-16

Thirteen veterans and their families attended the tour. Each family
was given a pass allowing them to enter the Fisher House for
free.

Vietnam War veteran Ed Lautsz takes a call to the front sitting room during a tour
of the new Fisher House on Vancouver's Veterans Affairs campus.

AMANDA COWAN/The Columbian

Amidst the tour, the Fisher House Foundation provided Hero Minutes for them.
"That program relieves people who donated their frequent flyer miles, said Kerri Childress, foundation
spokesperson.
The house was built by the Fisher House Foundation, which will manage the facility, during the
ceremony. Value of the donation is estimated at $16 million.
Since the Vancouver

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Since the Vancouver
County planning director files complaints against Madore

Orjiako levels whistle-blower, harassment complaints

By Katie Gillespie (author/katiegillespie), Columbian County Government Reporter
Published: March 23, 2016, 8:06 PM

Document

Oliver Orjiako complaints
(http://www.columbian.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Orjiako_WhistleblowerEEO_Complaint_03.15.16.pdf)

Community Planning Director Oliver Orjiako has filed two complaints against Clark County: A whistle-blower complaint, entitling him to protection from retaliation under state and county law, and a complaint alleging discrimination and harassment.

Clark County's planning director has filed whistle-blower and harassment complaints against Councilor Davd Madore, citing the councilor's involvement in the county's 20-year growth plan and his accusations that planning staff lied to promote their own agenda.

The five-page complaint, filed on Orjiako's behalf by Vancouver attorney Greg Ferguson, describes an environment of discrimination and harassment against the community planning director, who has been with Clark County for more than 25 years.

In the complaint filed March 15, Ferguson accuses Madore of “single-handedly commandeering the usual functions of the planning department,” of using a “bully pulpit” to harass and intimidate Orjiako, and of treating the planner, a dual Nigerian-United States citizen, “less favorably than other white male department heads.”

Speaking with his attorney this week, Orjiako told The Columbian he feels he's been unfairly targeted for simply standing up to Madore through the county’s Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update process. Madore’s controversial zoning proposal, Alternative 4, and related planning framework introduced by the councilor violate the Growth Management Act and “cannot be supported” by state law, Orjiako said.

But Madore, who did not return a request for comment, has accused Orjiako and county staff in Facebook posts, from the dais and in a Jan. 27 op-ed piece in The Reflector, Battle Ground’s weekly newspaper, of providing false data to the county council in order to promote an anti-rural growth agenda.

"For me, I’m someone that will stand up for what is right, for my staff, for folks that I have worked with," Orjiako said "There’s no reason for this to be hanging over my head and hanging over my staff’s heads.”

Whistle-blower

In the report, Ferguson details Orjako’s complaints about Madore’s “solitary efforts” to develop Alternative 4, a zoning proposal that would have allowed for small lot sizes in rural Clark County. The council overturned Alternative 4 earlier this year.

Ferguson alleges that Madore has stepped on the role of the planning department, “alienated staff” and “pre-empted public participation,” violations of the Growth Management Act and Clark County’s home rule charter.

The complaint alleges that Madore has worked to engage with and hire outside consultants “who he hopes will deviate from the (Growth Management Act)”

Ferguson goes on to write that Madore has retaliated against Orjako for attempting to oppose these efforts. Madore has accused staff of using “covert software” to “grossly inflate” how many lots Alternative 4 could create in order to promote an “anti-rural growth agenda,” according to a Feb. 22 Facebook post by the Republican councilor.

But Orjako has done just the opposite, Ferguson wrote, saying the planning director has worked in “good faith” to uphold the rural character of Clark County in accordance with growth management laws.

“Accusations of fraud, deceit and pursuit of an ‘anti-rural growth agenda’ have been leveled against my client with complete disregard of the mandates of the (Growth Management Act) and absent any objective factual basis,” Ferguson wrote in the complaint.

Orjako also denied that county planning staff are or have ever used illicit software in order to promote an agenda.

“There is no hidden agenda, covert software, whatever,” Orjako said.

In the complaint, Orjako asks that the Clark County council adopt a resolution affirming it will follow the Growth Management Act, and asks an independent investigation be conducted into Madore, “his abuse of public office, official misconduct and perpetual conflicts of interest.”

“Just because you’re a county councilor doesn’t mean you can circumvent and trample on laws that sit on the book,” Ferguson said.

State whistle-blower laws as well as county policy entitle Orjako to protection from retaliation over the complaint, Ferguson said.

Francine Reis, the county’s human resources director, did not comment on the complaint, saying the county does not publicly discuss ongoing complaints by county employees.

‘Hostility, public ridicule’ alleged

The complaint also alleges that Madore has been “hypercritical” of Orjako’s work, and said the councilor has “expressed visible irritation” with Orjako’s communication style and Nigenan accent.

Ferguson wrote that Madore has “interrupted and verbally dismissed” Orjako, and that the councilor “randomly drops by” the planning director’s office unannounced in order to catch him off-guard and unprepared.

“He is a regular recipient of Madore’s hostility and public ridicule,” Ferguson wrote. “Indeed, Councilor Madore treats no other department head with such contempt. The evidence strongly suggests that race and national origin are a motivating factor in Madore’s behavior toward my client.”

Orjako confirmed that he feels Madore has treated him differently than white men at Clark County, such as Geographic Information Systems staff, which Madore in a March 1 Facebook post called “fabulous,” “truth-telling,” “stellar,” and “completely above reproach.”

“I cannot conclude anything else except my race, my accent, my national origin,” Orjako said. “I cannot treat you differently for no apparent reason. I think for me, it’s evident when you’re being treated differently.”
Ojiako said he was once able to approach the council with ease. No longer, he said, as Madore’s style of questioning and demeanor has caused Ojiako to lose his confidence and sense of self when speaking before the board.

“You have a feeling in you that is very, very…” Ojiako began before pausing “It’s just difficult to comprehend or put in writing or put in words how you feel.”

For Ojiako, his concerns come down to one thing: standing up for what is right as both a public employee, as well as a citizen.

“It’s not a crime to say ‘no,’” Ojiako said “That’s all I’m doing is standing for the truth.”

**Another complaint**

Ojiako joins another county director in filing a whistle-blower complaint against a sitting councilor.

In January 2013, previous Environmental Services Director Kevin Gray found himself out of a job after he filed a whistle-blower complaint against Republican County Commissioner Tom Mielke.

Gray alleged Mielke was forcing him from his job for investigating Phil Burgess, the county’s previous supervisor of vegetation management. Burgess was Mielke’s friend, neighbor and a campaign donor.

According to Columbian archives, Gray received complaints in 2011 from staff in the Vegetation Management Department that Burgess was using county time and resources to benefit his personal business of manufacturing weed-killing tools.

Gray alleged in the whistle-blower complaint that Mielke was retaliating against him for investigating Burgess. Columbian archives from 2013 report that Mielke complained about Gray’s management style.

Gray ultimately accepted an undisclosed settlement from the county and resigned after withdrawing his original complaint against Mielke, according to Columbian archives.

**Katie Gillespie (/@author/katiegillespie)**

Columbian County Government Reporter

360-735-4517

@newsldykatie (https://twitter.com/newsldykatie)

Send an Email (mailto:kaitlin.gillespie@columbian.com)
David Knight · The Other Kingdoms

Finally we might get some attention to the false report allegation that the council has been glossing over.

Reply 14 mins

Emie Hook · Works at Retired

I compare Mador to the "Oil Terminal Project" set-up by The Port of Vancouver, do we really want this disaster laden or burden on our plates? As an arrogant useless loud mouth, he is trouble in the constant making and ranks as a know it all useless politician.

Reply 1 hr

Ed Rutledge · Salem, Oregon

Here's yet another probable cost to the taxpayers added by Madore's wild out-of-control approach to governance. Mador is a liability to the stability and credibility to the whole County. Electing him reflects on the citizens of Clark County and its not a pretty image.

Reply 1 2 hrs

David Clark

The one time I saw this planner, he struck me as a very typical city planner: Incompetent, out of touch with reality and towing the planner's party line of forcing housing prices up through limiting land for housing, forcing people to waste time on transit by making automobile use more expensive and slower, showing a total disregard for people's right to use their own property, and stealing a large portion of people's property value by restricting its use. One top Portland planner actually admitted that most planners are fascists.

"But they do make pretty good communists and fascists. Planners want organization and for all things to be predictable. The profession came into being in the 1960s. So they tend to believe in the issues spawned in the day. They are environmental socialists. In other words, they believe in collective environmentalism (Gore) and not individual environmentalism ."

http://www.victoriataft.com/911-richard-carson-pdx-is

Here are some lies most planners use to create their plans:
High Density will reduce traffic congestion.
High Density will reduce cost.
High Density will reduce your commute time.
High Density will give us affordable housing.

BTW, a 20 year plan in 1940 would have to plan for jet airports (for the 707), with their longer runways, before the first jet was mass produced in Germany. Further evidence that planners are deluded when they produce 20 year plans - they actually believe they can predict the future 20 years out.

The "nector child" for planning is Portland. But planners have made Portland housing unaffordable.

The poster child for planning is Portland but planners have made Portland housing unaffordable, destroyed its neighborhoods with infill, forced density and massive apartments along all main streets, and created massive road congestion by putting more cars on the same roads (as opposed to spreading out the increased population over more area and roads.

Most city planners simply should be fired for the damage they do to our cities and counties. We should replace them with planners that plan for what people want instead of what the planners want to dictate.

Reply 1 2 hrs Edited

Ed Rutledge · Salem, Oregon
You saw Mr. Orjako once and, based on that, you judge the fellow to be incompetent. Good grief Mr. Clark.

Reply 7 2 hrs

Thom Rasmussen · Salmon Creek, Washington
Really? There's a "planner's party line"? What party would that be? You really need to step away from the kool-ade, for your own safety and health.

Reply 1 11 mins

Eric Fuller · University of Oregon
Lol. What a load of tripe.

My favorite? "Most planners are fascists"

Can I be your tin foil salesman?

Reply 4 mins

Bridget Schwarz · Ridgefield, Washington
Effective January 1, 2015 the Home Rule Charter established clear roles for the county councilors and the Acting County Manager. The Acting County Manager failed in his responsibility to prevent a hostile work environment for staff and specifically to support his Community Planning department

Reply 1 6 hrs

Jim Moeller · Clark College -- Vancouver, Washington
Madore feels he was hired to be a CEO. He was ELECTED to be a commissioner, there is a difference

Reply 8 6 hrs

John Kilvik
This isn't the first time Councillor Madore has attacked professional staff members and attempted to use the power of his elected position to intimidate them into altering their professional findings to comply with his ideological beliefs but it may turn out to be the most expensive. The rest of the Clark County Board and the Acting County Manager need to step up to the plate, conduct an independent review of the refusals, and either correct the behavior...
intervention, censure him, or in no another way to limit such inappropriate behavior

Reply 6 7 hrs

Jennifer Barnes
I'm very thankful for Dr. Orjiako's hard work and dedication. The way he has been treated these past months is shameful. I hope he finds the justice he seeks. He absolutely deserves it.

Reply 10 8 hrs

Bridget McLeman
The evidence in County Council videotapes and in Mr. Madore's Facebook posts is clear, - - - -from multiple emails in the public record to screen shots of the anti-planning department campaign, from the official meeting video tapes to the board audio records - - Dr. Orjiako has been treated with disrespect, subject to threats, publicly embarased, professionally discounted, and personally demeaned. There has been a purposeful undermining of Dr. Orjiako's authority as Director in an unrelenting effort to promote Mr. Madore's political agenda. Mr. Madore has violated every principle of the adopted Code of Ethics of Clark County. Principle 1: A county Councilor should be vigorously dedicated to the democratic ideals of honesty, openness and accountability in all public matters involving the county government.

Principle 2: A county Councilor should promote decorum, respect for others and civility in all public relationships.

Principle 3: A county Councilor should actively practice stewardship of the county's human, fiscal and material resources

Principle 4: A county Councilor should strive for excellence and continuous learning relative to personal development and in all operations of county government.

Principle 5: A county Councilor should perform the duties of public office with fairness and impartiality so as to enhance public confidence in county government.

Principle 6: A county Councilor should neither seek nor accept any favor from any source that may be offered to influence his or her official decision-making.

Mr. Madore has violated the trust of the citizens of Clark county place in their elected officials. His actions have cost Dr. Orjiako personally and professionally. They have also cost us, as citizens, the integrity we have the right to respect from our elected officials.

I, for one, apologize to Dr. Orjiako for all he has had to endure. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need witnesses to Mr. Madore's unrelenting campaign against you and the planning department.

Reply 13 8 hrs Edited

John Ley · Camas, Washington
"the planning director has worked in "good faith" to uphold the rural character of Clark County in accordance with growth management laws. "]
That's an interesting comment, given that Clark County LOST in a law suit brought by Clark County Citizens United in the 1990's. We were the ONLY county in the state, to INCREASE the minimum lot sizes in rural areas. Why would we be the ONLY one to do this, if it is "in accordance with growth management laws"?

More importantly, why didn't the County staff offer an alternative to the Commissioners (now Councilors), that responded to the needs and requests of rural land owners? If they had, then Councilor David Madore would have never had to create Alternative 4.

It was the poor work of the county planners, that IGNORED the previous law suit, and ignored the present input of rural landowners, and ignored common sense in allowing more "affordable" rural land, rural farms, and rural forests, to be created.

This will be an interesting case to watch, especially given the fact that rural landowners have promised more law suits over the failure of Alternative 4 passage.

Carolyn Crain · Western Business College, Portland, OR

The rural landowners case was determined to be settled sufficiently in court John a decade ago. This doesn't make the actions of the councilor legal regardless. We are a nation of laws. While I think the gma is seriously flawed and goes so far as to violate constitutional rights of property I cannot defend the behavior of a councilor who in a hearing, a public hearing on the record accuses a staff member of gross violations of law. That is not how we roll. We have mechanisms in place to resolve issues whether they are with the staff or with the GMA laws. Use those methods and the tax payers don't wind up paying for the stupid violations of law committed by the councilor. This has gone beyond out of control and straight into absurd. Mr Orjiako, Oliver was right to file.

Jack Burkman · Council Member at Vancouver, Washington City Government

John, you are more than stretching the truth here ... and that's definitely not unusual. You are consistently the strongest defender of Madore, but that doesn't mean what you post is true.

There is not a singular position held by rural landowners, no matter how often you pitch that. Probably the best example is the public statement made by the Clark/Cowlitz Farm Bureau and the State Farm Bureau who clearly said, "We feel that pursuing Alternate 4 and increased destruction of agricultural land capable of food and fiber production, is counter to the best interests of the citizens of Clark County" ... and more. That can be seen at http://www.therefinder.com/.../article_c8782884-ae77 ... .

The legal issues originating from the early 90's adoption of the first GMA plan were resolved. They have not been ignored for two decades, not matter how often you proclaim ...
that.

Reply 📜 20 8 hrs Edited

Loren Sickles
Thank you Jack. I was struggling to put into words an appropriate response to John's continued obfuscation of the real issues.

Reply 📜 11 8 hrs

Neil Pope
Don't sweat it.

Listening to Ley's ongoing regurgitations of Madorese is like having to put up with the neighbor's trained parrot.

It's a simple limited vocabulary, pieced together in a small way and swiftly becomes tedious while the owner croons about how clever it is.

Hopefully, it eventually gets the peanut it's looking for and it shuts up. It's just something to be endured.

Reply 📜 4 7 hrs

David Clark
Loren Sickles, what Jack??? Are you talking to yourself? Or a phantom? BTW, what are the real issues?
To me they appear to be Madore trying to get rid of the corruption that permutes government. In this case the planners trying to dictate plans that will hurt the county and many people.

Reply 📜 1 2 hrs

Pat Jollota
Dr. Orjiako has had my respect for many years. He is a man of integrity and honor. He has faced this treatment with circumspection and dignity. Good luck to you, Oliver!

Reply 📜 23 9 hrs

Jilayne Jordan
Thank you for standing up to this utterly repugnant bully, Dr. Orjiako. You are a gentleman and a scholar - two things Madore will never be.

Reply 📜 18 9 hrs

Nick Ruark · Vancouver, Washington
Thank you, Dr. Orjiako, for standing tall not only for yourself, your family, your staff, and other county department staff, but also for the citizens of Clark County.

Reply 📜 15 9 hrs
Carolyn Crain · Western Business College, Portland, OR
Oliver deserves more respect than what he was dished out at the recent county council hearing I attended. Madore was accusatory and rude. Several people in the audience with me were getting so frustrated that we talked of standing up to protest the behavior. If it continues I will not hesitate to do so. This is NOT how our government should work. There are laws and policies for a reason. I am sorry you have felt insulted and I do understand why Oliver. The people, your neighbors and fellow citizens, are here for you.

Reply 🗣️ 18 10 hrs

Michele Wollert
David Madore has been reinforced for his abusive behavior somewhere or he would not do it. It is a learned behavior that he has never had to answer for... until he was elected county commissioner and tried those control tactics on his colleagues and subordinates at Clark County. We, the tax payers, are footing his legal defense bills and settlement costs. And there will be more coming, I am certain.

Reply 🗣️ 11 9 hrs

Carolyn Crain · Western Business College, Portland, OR
Michele Wollert There is definitely something seriously wrong with anyone who refuses to respect any other individual. These hearings have become so painful to attend I am impressed with the sheer fortitude of our staff and other elected officials.

Reply 🗣️ 13 9 hrs

Judy Tiffany · Works at City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation
You are right.

Reply 🗣️ 1 7 hrs

Ed Rutledge · Salem, Oregon
Tell us this Ms. Crain When does the GOP censor Madore? Its failure to do so makes a statement.

Reply 🗣️ 1 2 hrs

Stuart L. Riley · Vancouver, Washington
It's time for Madore to learn that those First Amendment rights he often whines about, sometimes comes at a price. In his case, I just hope it's a hefty price.

Reply 🗣️ 7 9 hrs · Edited

Vicki Chambers · Works at Retired
No employee should go through this type of harassment. Best wishes for success in the suit Dr. Orjialko. And as a citizen of Clark County, thank you for your leadership.

Reply 🗣️ 13 10 hrs

Jackie Lane · Parsons School of Design, NYC
Thank you and know you have your back Dr. Orjiako. Please hang in there..... madore's time is limited
Reply 12 10 hrs

Karl Johnson - Paradise High School
Oliver Orjiako is probably one of the most honest men I have ever met. His ability to stay impartial in the political process while engaging in policy is second to none. I think the people of Clark County should really pay attention to this and realize this is just another example of the dysfuncitionality that David Madore has brought to the process. County leadership is not the problem and neither are the new councilors. First he attacked Marc Boldt, then Jeanie Stewart and Julie Olsen This is closely followed by an attack on Mark McCauley When you keep throwing metaphorical hand grenades into the process eventually something like this is bound to happen. It is time for David Madore to go.
Reply 29 10 hrs

Jack Burkman - Council Member at Vancouver, Washington City Government
Karl Johnson I've worked off and on with Oliver for many years and completely agree!
Reply 11 10 hrs

Traci Meyer-Jones - Vancouver, Washington
Good for Dr Orjiako - Councilor Madore's behavior cannot be allowed to continue.
Reply 16 10 hrs Edited

Fran Hammond - Vancouver, Washington
Thank you, Dr. Oliver Orjiako! Your dedication to accuracy and hard work is appreciated by most citizens of our county! It is about time that you speak up and speak out against the horrible harrassment and intimidation that Madore has been heaping upon you for the last several months! Please do not take a settlement and leave like the competent Mr. Gray did, we NEED you at the helm of our County Planning Dept! Your staff needs you!
Reply 21 10 hrs

Jared McClanahan
I suspect this is only the beginning of the beginning.
Reply 7 10 hrs

Hector Hinojosa
Step down Mr. M. What I told you two years ago have come to pass You have upended the county administration, you've caused untold loss of revenue and been the reason for numerous lawsuits. Step down, enough is enough.
Reply 19 10 hrs

Michele Wollert
Way to go, Dr Orjiako. Your complaint has merit and needed to be documented.

Reply 15 · 10 hrs

**Douglas Green** · Publisher at Telecom Reseller Inc

will there be another shoe dropping after this?

Reply 7 · 10 hrs

**Fran Hammond** · Vancouver, Washington

I can name a few that should! This could take up a Nike showroom of shoes!

Reply 4 · 9 hrs

Facebook Comments Plugin

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Community guidelines

(/guidelines/)

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BLOGS (HTTP://BLOGS.COLUMBIAN.COM)
March 15, 2016

Via Email and Regular Mail

Francine Reis
Director of Human Resources
Clark County, Washington
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000

Re: Oliver O’jako – Whistleblower and EEO Complaint

Dear Director Reis

I write for the purpose of initiating a Local Government Whistleblower and discrimination and harassment complaint on behalf of my client, Community Planning Director Oliver O’jako. This complaint is being submitted to you in writing pursuant to County policy No. 230 and the County’s policy No. 300 prohibiting discrimination and harassment in the workplace (“Equal Opportunity Employment and Harassment”)

Whistleblower Complaint/Governmental Waste and Mismanagement

As you may be aware, Mr. O’jako has repeatedly voiced complaints that Councilor David Madore’s solitary efforts to develop his proposed “alternative 4” have violated the Growth Management Act (GMA) and the County Charter. Councilor Madore has single-handedly commandeered the usual functions of the planning department, alienated staff and preempted public participation, thereby violating many of the basic tenants of the GMA and outlined in the Charter.

As many are aware, growth management in Washington took a notable turn with the passage of the GMA in 1990. The GMA, codified primarily in RCW Chapter 36 70A, was enacted in response to rapid population growth and concerns with unchecked suburban sprawl, environmental problems, quality of life and the impact of growth on rural areas. The GMA requires the fastest growing counties, like Clark County, to adhere to GMA goals regarding

• Sprawl reduction
• Concentrated urban growth
• Affordable housing
• Economic development
• Open space and recreation
• Regional transportation
• Environmental protection
Whistleblower/EEO Complaint
Francine Reis, Director HR
March 15, 2016
Page 2

- Property rights
- Natural resource industries
- Historic lands and buildings
- Permit processing
- Public facilities and services
- Early and continuous public participation
- Shoreline management

Councilor Madore's efforts to unilaterally engage with and hire outside consultants and third parties who he hopes will deviate from the GMA—absent full public participation and transparency—has circumvented both letter of, and important public policies underlying, the GMA. Moreover, his singular actions have contravened the Board's public participation resolution No. 2014-01-10. The ultimate consequence of Madore’s gerrymandering has been the gross waste of government funds and a colossal waste of County staff time.

Further, in retaliation for my client’s opposition to his efforts to circumvent the GMA, Councilor Madore has publicly harassed and demeaned Mr. Ojjaoko from the dais during board meetings demonstrating a clear abuse of authority. He has used his bully pulpit to target staff with reprisals and factual falsehoods. Accusations of fraud, deceit, and pursuit of an "anti-rural growth agenda" have been leveled against my client with complete disregard of the mandates of the GMA and absent any objective factual basis.

Notably, Councilor Madore accused my client of spearheading a scheme of growth data manipulation during a time when Mr. Ojjaoko was on extended bereavement leave for nearly a month, residing with relatives in Africa. Though it was impossible for my client to have done what Madore claims, the specious allegations continue nonetheless. Most recently, he accused my client and his staff of criminal conduct in an effort to turn up the heat against those opposing his circumvention of the GMA.

County employees have not lied nor misled anyone. There is no such thing as an “anti-rural development agenda.” Indeed, the statute itself embodies a strong public policy in favor of preserving the character of rural lands.

RCW 36 70A 011
Findings—Rural lands

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. Rural lands and rural-based economies enhance the economic desirability of the state, help to preserve traditional economic activities, and contribute to the state’s overall quality of life.

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1 An example is Peter Silliman, who was the subject of controversy last year when he was appointed with Madore’s backing to his position with the board. Silliman is a former freeholder who led the campaign against the Home Rule Charter. As reported by The Columbian, he has no background in urban planning. Prior to working for the County, he was an engineer at CenturyLink.
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Francine Reis, Director HR
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The Legislature has dictated that preserving Washington’s rural character is not a choice, but a
legal mandate. Washington public policy as expressed in the GMA affords protection from
retaliation and termination for those like Director Orjiako who in good faith strive to uphold its
mandate

Mr. Orjiako requests the Board of County Councilors to adopt a resolution affirming that it will follow
the GMA and its policy mandates in all respects. Additionally, Mr. Orjiako respectfully asks that an
independent investigation be conducted into Councilor Madore’s actions as outlined above and into
his abuse of public office, official misconduct and perpetual conflicts of interest.

Complaint of Discrimination and Harassment

From the outset, Councilor Madore was hyper critical of my client’s work, and expressed visible
irritation with Mr. Orjiako’s formal communication style and Nigerian accent. Mr. Orjiako was often
interrupted and verbally dismissed by Madore in public settings, and generally treated less
favorably than other white male department heads possessing far less knowledge, experience and
education

2 (15) “Rural character” refers to the patterns of land use and development established by a county in the rural
element of its comprehensive plan
(a) In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment,
(b) That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in
rural areas,
(c) That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in rural areas and communities,
(d) That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat,
(e) That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development,
(f) That generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services, and
(g) That are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and groundwater and surface water
recharge and discharge areas

3 9A.80 010
Official misconduct.
(1) A public servant is guilty of official misconduct if, with intent to obtain a benefit or to deprive another person of a
lawful right or privilege
(a) He or she intentionally commits an unauthorized act under color of law, or
(b) He or she intentionally refrains from performing a duty imposed upon him or her by law
(2) Official misconduct is a gross misdemeanor

4 42.23 070
Prohibited acts.
(1) No municipal officer may use his or her position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself, herself, or
others
(2) No municipal officer may, directly or indirectly, give or receive or agree to receive any compensation, gift, reward,
or gratuity from a source except the employing municipality, for a matter connected with or related to the officer’s
services as such an officer unless otherwise provided for by law
(3) No municipal officer may accept employment or engage in business or professional activity that the officer might
reasonably expect would require or induce him or her by reason of his or her official position to disclose confidential
information acquired by reason of his or her official position
(4) No municipal officer may disclose confidential information gained by reason of the officer’s position, nor may the
officer otherwise use such information for his or her personal gain or benefit

029450
Mr. Ojiako is one of the few (if not the only) department heads that Councilor Madore has decided to permanently remove from his meetings calendar. Rather than schedule in advance as is customary, he randomly drops by my client’s office unannounced in a manner calculated to catch Mr. Ojiako unprepared and off balance. Mr. Ojiako’s efforts are consistently undermined, and his work product is picked apart. He is a regular recipient of Madore’s hostility and public ridicule. Indeed, Councilor Madore treats no other department head with such contempt. The evidence strongly suggests that race and national origin are a motivating factor in Madore’s behavior toward my client. That behavior has resulted in a hostile working environment in direct violation of County policy.

Notably, Councilor Madore has a documented history of treating protected class members less favorably than white males. His rather recent unilateral hiring of Don Benton over a superior female candidate Anita Largent resulted in a $250,000.00 settlement and the loss of the proven talent she would have brought to the position. Contrary to his recent public attempts to re-write history, Councilor Madore did in fact “hire” Don Benton as Director of Environmental Services. The transcript of the County board time meeting wherein the decision was made is undeniable. Madore instructed then County Administrator Bill Barron to hire Mr. Benton without a single minority or female candidate even being considered.

**Barron** Just so you know, my interpretation is this [Benton’s hiring] will devastate the organization, not only the department but the organization because this is bypassing every human resource process we have for hiring department heads, just so you know.

**Madore** Bill, I heard what you said earlier and, um, I can assure you your fears are not going to come to pass.

**Barron** I have no fears. I’m just telling you the reality.
I do what I am told.

See attached board time transcript, Ex “A”

Councilor Madore’s recent efforts to wave the flag of diversity while espousing the hire of a female “candidate” for a position that is not even yet open and available and who received over $13,000.00 in campaign donations from Councilor Madore smacks of the same type of historical collusion and cronyism that truly will “get the county sued” yet again.

As I believe Mr. Barron often said, “Process is your friend.” Yet, Councilor Madore casts process and policy aside when it comes to his treatment of Mr. Ojiako, while simultaneously beating the drum of equality when he believes process can be used to his personal advantage. Councilor Madore has not suddenly seen the light and embraced diversity. Rather he raises the subject only as a foil to direct public attention away from his discriminatory and retaliatory treatment of Director Ojiako.

Councilor Madore’s public attacks and harassment of Mr. Ojiako, a dual Nigerian-US citizen who for twenty-five (25) years has devoted himself to the service of Clark County and its citizens, is reprehensible, and occurs during a time where Clark County is lacking needed racial diversity.
Mr. Ojako requests a full investigation into Councilor Madore’s conduct and requests protection from future retaliation as a consequence of his good faith report of discrimination and harassment.

Very Truly Yours,

[Signature]

Gregory D. Ferguson
Legal Counsel for Oliver Ojako

CC: Chris Horne, Chief Civil Deputy, Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (via email)
EXEMPLARY OF BOARD TIME PROCEEDINGS

DATE TAKEN: Wednesday, May 1, 2013

PLACE: 1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
        Vancouver, Washington

COURT REPORTER: Cindy J. Holley, CCR

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029453
to pull together both sides of the aisle up there and pull together a coalition and have it hold during a very, very challenging time to me says that he knows how to work with people and get them to buy in. The people that work most closely with him have a lot of respect for him.

COMMISSIONER MIELKE: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MADORE: Bill, you have his resume. I invite you to communicate with him and give us your feedback.

BILL BARRON: Okay. Now I'm to do what? I'm to interview him --

COMMISSIONER MADORE: Yes.

BILL BARRON: -- or just start the process? I can't learn anything more than what you've already said about him, so there's no use in me interviewing him. If you want him as the job, I'll just start him through the process, start him through the process.

COMMISSIONER MADORE: Okay.

BILL BARRON: Because it does no good for me to interview him. You're obliterating every process that we've had in place for 14 years.

COMMISSIONER MIELKE: I think --

BILL BARRON: I've told you that.

COMMISSIONER MIELKE: -- you need to ask the question how he's going to deal with this, his other job, how he feels he's going to deal with the legislature --
have teachers, doctors, firemen, policemen. That's what the legislature is made up of.

COMMISSIONER MADORE: Yup

BILL BARRON: So I'll just have to communicate with him and tell him what then and have him come in to process for the job and I'll make an announcement to the department.

COMMISSIONER MIELKE: Okay. This will work out.

BILL BARRON: Just so you know, my interpretation is this will devastate the organization, not only the department but this organization because this is bypassing every human resource process we have for hiring department heads, just so you know.

COMMISSIONER MADORE: Bill I heard what you said earlier and um I can assure you your fears are not going to come to pass.

BILL BARRON: I have no fears. I'm just telling you the reality.

COMMISSIONER MIELKE: Okay

BILL BARRON: I do what I'm told.

COMMISSIONER MADORE. I care about this team and I will make sure that this team is going to be healthy.

BILL BARRON: Well I will assure you that it will have a grave impact on this team. Not even the personality we are not talking the person. I'm talking the process and I told you process

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