Madore’s claims may cost county

It may have to hire outside legal help on growth plan

By Katie Gillespie /katiegillespie/, Columbian County Government Reporter
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Clark County Councilor David Madore’s recent accusations that the county’s own legal staff lied to the board could force the county to hire outside attorneys, county officials said Wednesday.

Deputy Prosecutors Chris Cook and Chns Home may no longer be able to represent the board or the county’s Community Planning Department as the county proceeds with its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update, Chair Marc Boldt said after an executive session Wednesday.

In recent weeks, Madore has accused the prosecutor’s office, along with community planning, of lying about the impact of the now-defunct Alternative 4, which the Republican councilor wrote for the growth plan update at the urging of some rural property owners.

“The Planning staff and complicit Prosecuting Attorney have gone to great lengths to adamantly explain that the software tool that they covertly used to erroneously inflate the numbers that advocated against Alternative 4, does not exist,”

Planning staff, as well as deputy prosecutors, have denied that they presented false information to the council.

Nonetheless, Madore’s accusations prompted Home and Cook to consult the Washington State Bar Association, which advised them to recuse themselves from any issue dealing with the growth plan in order to avoid a potential conflict of interest, Boldt said.

“This may really change the comp plan,” said Boldt, no party preference “We can’t even do a work session”

Acting County Manager Mark McCauley said the county could end up hiring additional attorneys, likely from the Seattle area, to assist in the growth plan moving forward.

But that will come at a cost — easily in excess of $25,000, McCauley estimated.

“It would be best to bring in someone from Seattle with a highly regarded reputation,” McCauley said “The comp plan process is fraught with rsk”

Prosecutor Tony Golik, a Democrat, said the prosecutor’s office will work in the coming days to determine whether there actually is a conflict of interest preventing Home or Cook from representing the council or community planning.

Golik added that he is "confident" the prosecutor's office will know how to move forward within the week.

Community Planning Director Oliver Orjiako declined to comment, saying he would defer to the direction of the council.

Ongoing challenges

Wednesday's action is the latest in ongoing drama over Clark County's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update.

Madore, whose controversial Alternative 4 would have allowed smaller lot sizes in rural Clark County, has accused county staff in Facebook posts, from the dais and in a Jan. 27 op-ed piece in The Reflector newspaper of providing false data to the county council in order to promote an anti-rural growth agenda.

But county employees are pushing back against Madore's accusations and his work on the comprehensive plan.

Most recently, Orjiako filed a whistleblower complaint against Madore, accusing him of violating the Growth Management Act in his development of Alternative 4. Orjiako, a dual Nigerian-United State citizen, also accused Madore of discrimination based on his race and accent.

"For me, I'm someone that will stand up for what is right, for my staff, for folks that I have worked with," Orjiako told The Columbian last week. "There's no reason for this to be hanging over my head and hanging over my staff's heads."

McCauley said the county already has hired an outside attorney to begin investigating Madore's allegations against planning staff and the prosecuting attorney's office, as well as Orjiako's complaint.

"There's a black cloud over a number of people because of the accusations made by Councilor Madore," McCauley said.

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Katie Gillespie (/author/katiegillespie)

Columbian County Government Reporter

360-735-4517

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

Send an Email (mailto:kaitlin.gillespie@columbian.com)

12 Comments

Add a comment

David Clark
Columbian --- "It may have to hire outside legal help on growth plan"
ME --- A small price to root out corruption
Reply 1 2 hrs

Michele Wollert
Mark McCauley estimated $25,000, but he did not elaborate that that number would require a monthly output, most likely, indefinitely GMA update challenges drag on for years in the courts and, if our in-house attorneys have to recuse themselves on this issue, Clark County will be retaining a long-term outside legal consultant at a huge cost to those who pay taxes to support its operational expenses. Experienced Seattle attorneys charge, at minimum, $450 an hour. There IS no corruption, as Madore cavalierly alleges. But what we DO have is an irresponsible councilor who only advocates for a very small constituency and punishes everyone who brings him information he does not like.
Reply 2 39 mins

Nancy Schultz · Vancouver, Washington
If it can be proven that his allegations are false -as of course they are - and he knew and continued to make the statements, then he, not the County, is liable for monetary damages. Mr. Madore has what every lawyer loves: deep pockets. He could lose his business paying out damages.
Reply 3 3 hrs

Stuart L. Riley · Vancouver, Washington
I think Madore truly believes god will take care of everything. So, he isn't worried, although he should be.

"God providentially provides us with talents, abilities and opportunities to fulfill a purpose, to meet needs and solve problems in the world around us. Our responsibility is to diligently develop these talents into productive skills and assemble resources to produce the most fruitful application of these into practical solutions. Through good stewardship, we work to make the world a better place."
http://www.usdigital.com/company
Reply 11 mins

David Clark
David's facebook mentions Jan 13, Feb 16 and Feb 23 meetings. Interestingly, the video of the Feb 16 meeting has been changed (two breaks have been edited out)
The two Feb meetings contain discussions about use of the allegedly forbidden software, and one attorney explaining the Poyfair decision

What I am trying to figure out is why Oliver & company are so opposed to alt 4 assuming David is right about it conforming to law. And why do the planners appear to be so against expanding the supply of buildable land. It is as if they want housing to get even more unaffordable.
Sam Atkinson · Chambersburg Area Senior High School
ALT 4 is nothing but a small Lobby interest pipe dream created by Madoro. Like his free bridge in five years, fantasy for a few developers, gullible quacks and stooges.

The menage a trios of Benton, Madoro and Pike fighting there way to the top of dysfunctional Government.

Stuart L. Riley · Vancouver, Washington
Conspiracies are everywhere, aren't they?

Joy Imboden Overstreet · Image Consultant at ColorStyle / PDX
Of course it will cost the county. If he can't have his way, by God, he'll take the whole county down with him. So there

Bridget McLeman
Before we know it we will need all of those banked property tax percentages. Just to pay the legal bills created by Mr. Madore. Fiscal responsible behavior?

Hector Hinojosa
His circular logic has always been absurd.

Tom Gibson · Camas, Washington
David Madore will cost far more money than he ever saved Clark County. And I don't believe he ever saved the County any money.

Loretta Thomas
Madore, his very own self fulfilling prophecy


Chris Prothero · Columbia Basin College
When Madore's slanderous statements are proven false, I would call on Clark County NOT to indemnify Councilor David Madore. These allegations are NOT in good faith and the taxpayers should NOT be footing the bill for Councilor Madore's reckless actions. These allegations are simply strinking out at anyone he can knowing his political ship is sinking and attempting to take anyone.
down with him he can grasp

We, the citizens, know these unfounded statements by Councilor Madore and stand behind those who have impugned, Oliver Orjako, Chris Horne and Mark McCaulley just to name a few.

Reply 12 · 9 hrs

Michele Wollert
Unlike Madore, who does not have to answer to a professional licensing board, Clark County attorneys must adhere to the ethical guidelines of the Washington State Bar Association. What are the odds that they would risk their licenses by lying to their client (Clark County) and colluding with Community Planning to rig the GMA update process? Not a likely scenario. So, we appear to have an oppositional/defiant/delusional councilor who is hell bent on destroying local government and the people who work there. His list of alleged rogues keeps getting longer, but he suffers no consequences for making these scurrilous and very harmful accusations of county employees trying to do their jobs. He has been reinforced for this behavior or he would not do it. So, let Clark County be the first entity that denies this man his bully whip.

Reply 21 · 9 hrs

Nancy Schultz  Vancouver, Washington
He is reinforced by his right wing supporters who attend the hearings and threaten the "liberal majority." They set the tone early on and have kept hammering away. Mr. Boldt is a very nice, kind man who needs to wield a larger gavel when these people are hostile. The best thing we can do is to ensure he is not re-elected in November.

Reply 3 hrs

John Laird  Works at Retired Journalist
Madore constantly complains that county government is dysfunctional, conveniently ignoring the fact that he is the reason. It’s all part of the Tea Party plan. Complain that government performs inefficiently, then get elected and do everything you can to exacerbate all inefficiencies.

Reply 24 · 9 hrs

Robert Ives  Vancouver, Washington
P J O’Rourke’s maxim. Republicans complain that government doesn’t work, then get elected and prove it.

Reply 1 · 1 hr

Steve McGillis
Madore needs to go! Is there anyway we can stick him, personally, with the added costs associated with having to get outside counsel since he caused the need?