Outside attorney advising Clark County council

Seattle lawyer to guide councilors as they advance growth plan update

The new Clark County Council for 2016 sits down for its first meeting of the year on Jan. 5.


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After several years of work, the Clark County council is, at last, in the home stretch of its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update.

But a workshop Wednesday hinted at continued complications as the county moves forward through the growth plan before the June 30 deadline.

Despite last week's 3-to-2 decision by the Clark County council to waive Deputy Prosecutors Chris Horne and Chris Cook of any conflict of interest — allowing them to return to
representing the council and community planning staff — the board was represented Wednesday by a new, outside attorney.

Stephen DeJulio, an attorney with Seattle firm Foster Pepper, will represent the council as it moves forward with the last chapters of its 20-year growth plan

Council Chair Marc Boldt, no party preference, said DeJulio was deputized to serve the county immediately before Wednesday’s morning work session

“You were kind of thrown into it at the last minute,” Boldt said to the attorney

Councilor David Madore in recent weeks has accused Home and Cook of lying about the impact of Alternative 4, the Republican’s controversial zoning proposal that would have allowed for smaller lots in rural Clark County had it been enacted He’s leveled similar accusations against Planning Director Oliver Orjiako, who has since filed whistleblower and harassment complaints against Madore

The county has hired an investigator to look into Madore and Orjiako’s conflicting allegations

But the exact details of why DeJulio was hired — and why last week’s decision was apparently reversed — weren’t immediately clear His presence was only briefly explained at the work session, and when Madore tried to press for more information at a board time meeting later in the afternoon, he was told the county would discuss the hire during executive session

Acting County Manager Mark McCauley, who was at a training seminar and absent from Wednesday’s meetings, said Prosecutor Tony Golik decided the county should work with an outside attorney That reverses advice the Democratic prosecutor gave last week saying Cook and Home should be able to continue representing the council

Golik, who is responsible for hiring outside attorneys if necessary, did not return a phone call from The Columbian

But an email Councilor Julie Olson sent to McCauley, Golik and Boldt on Saturday may provide some explanation as to DeJulio’s presence In that email, Olson asked that the county hire a third-party attorney, expressing concern that Madore’s treatment of Home will prevent him from being able to do his job

“I believe Councilor Madore will purposefully and consistently engage in topics where Mr Home will have an inherent conflict and will be unable to answer questions or provide counsel,” Olson said in that email “The Clark County Councilors need to have legal advice and opinions available during the course of our duties”

Olson told The Columbian following Wednesday’s work session that she was concerned about Home and Cook continuing to represent the county in the midst of ongoing allegations She said as long as the pair were operating through a “quagmire of controversy,” it would be difficult for them to successfully do their job

She was unaware Wednesday morning, however, if her concerns had swayed Golik one way or the other

Clark County still has a slew of work sessions, public hearings and deliberations to get through before adopting its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update In the coming weeks, it will consider its capital facilities plan outlining how the county plans to pay for its projected growth, as well as chapters on subjects dealing with transportation, the environment and development codes

The county is taking public comments on all remaining chapters of the growth plan To comment, visit Engage Clark County at clark wa gov/engage-clark-county (http:/clark wa gov/engage-clark-county)

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8 Comments

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John M. Kowalski  Camas, Washington

"I believe Councilor Madore will purposefully and consistently engage in topics where Mr. Horne will have an inherent conflict and will be unable to answer questions or provide counsel," Olson said in that email. "The Clark County Councilors need to have legal advice and opinions available during the course of our duties."

This is another way of saying Olson believes Madore will violate the law by interference in Mr. Horne's duties.

We need to have a law on the ballot that allows for County Council members to be able to oust a member who exhibits the behavior that Olson (in my view rightly) believes we can expect from Councilor Madore, who it seems is also interfering with Donald Benton's work (who for some reason is some kind of superman because he can run an environmental services department AND run the statewide presidential campaign of an orange-haired genetic relative to an orangutan) Benton of course, still doesn't realize that David Madore is a Councilor, not a commissioner, but that's another story.

But Madore is not governing, he's interfering with the executive branch, and we need sanctions for that

Reply 1 hr Edited

David Clark

Of course the real story here is the destruction that the comp plan will do to Clark County. It will increase house prices, increase congestion, promote light rail, increase density in all

http://www.columbian.com/news/2016/apr/27/outside-attorney-advising-clark-county-council/7sp-tk=04897168C7337A07DC72E6C198C9568EE12ACAC446C7
John M. Kowalski  Camas, Washington

Alternative 4 was bad because it was cooked up by a very disturbed man with no competence in land use planning.

Having easier access to Portland is a good thing. Rail transport is good.

Conservatism is bad. David Madore is bad (probably criminally so).

David Madore’s corruption is bad.

The Reflector is bad, because we can’t get it here, and it’s not a daily publication.

Congestion caused by a lack of rail transit, caused by repugnant politicians is bad.

The CCRP is bad, especially with its current wackaloon leadership.

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Clark County Citizens Unfiltered

Alt. 4 was and always has been about profiteering. Wanting to subdivide so the realtors, contractors, engineers and investors collectively known as Clark County Citizens United can develop acre upon acre of shoddy cookie cutter houses even though REAL experts have warned against it repeatedly. But here again, Madore thinks he’s the smartest person in the room. Think again.

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Roy Valo  Political Consultant at Valo Consulting

My 12 year old son could write a better plan than Alt 4. I could hang up a piece of paper, throw pencils at it, and it would be a better plan than alt 4.

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Karen Swanson Krajewski  Vancouver, Washington

I feel another Madore rant coming on, especially since he wasn’t told ahead of time about this lawyer being hired. Can you say “conspiracy” by the “liberal trio”. I hate the thought of all the taxpayer money that will be used, but Julie made the right choice.

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Bridget McLeman

I believe Mr. Madore spoke in favor of the idea of hiring outside counsel in Tuesday’s Board meeting? As did Jeanne Stewart. However, it must also be said, that he is certainly pursuing a strange strategy with his actions in Board Time today that forced Mr. Boldt to shorten debate to assure the confidentiality of a planned Executive Session was not
violated

Reply 🕒 2 8 hrs

Clark County Citizens Unfiltered
That incessant dripping sound you’re all hearing is Libertarian Councilor Madore bleeding money from the county coffers $350/hr hour by hour for each of these outside attorneys Remind me how this fiscally conservative thing works again

Reply 🕒 7 9 hrs

Thom Rasmussen  Salmon Creek, Washington
This is getting really stupid.

Reply 🕒 3 9 hrs

Terry Whipps Conner  Owner at Owner of Fishers Landing Hypnotherapy
Great article, Katie  As unpleasant as it is to know the county is getting soaked for this extracurricular counsel, I agree with Councilor Olson Wise move to use caution due to Madore’s incessant malevolence

Reply 🕒 5 9 hrs

Carolyn Crain  Western Business College, Portland, OR
I think that Julie is right In all the dealings with the council Madore is constantly challenging the topic on the agenda through veering off. He previously challenged the attorney’s through using these tactics I definitely think she is right and has made an observation that is in the best interest of the county council, both of the county attorneys, and the tax payers Smart and clear thinking!

Reply 🕒 7 9 hrs

Lorretta Thomas
Simply incredible

Reply 🕒 3 10 hrs

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