

Clark County Board of Councilors
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666



April 26, 2016

Dear Councilors,

County planning staff has been busy. They didn't have time to comply with commissioners directives, but did have time to create their own Comprehensive Plan. They didn't have time to consider a full range of alternatives, but did have time to create a no growth Plan. They didn't have time for a full public participation program, to inform people of new policies, but did have time to work with specific environmentalists, to manipulate the Plan. They didn't have time to consider a Plan that was fair and balanced, but did have time to manipulate calculations to appear as if it was fair and balanced. They didn't have time to create a Plan that reflected public testimony and the truth, but, did have time to create a new restrictive 2014 Chapter 1 County Wide Planning Policy; a new restrictive 2012 Ageing Readiness Report; two years of staff time with the Food System Council creating a new restrictive 2012 Growing Healthier Report; a new restrictive 2014 Rural Element; a new restrictive 2014 Environmental Element; a new restrictive 2014 Chapter 6 Housing Goals and Policies; new restrictive 2016 Community Development Goals and Policies; and a new restrictive 2016 Proposed New Revisions Draft Comprehensive Plan Policy Document. None of these staff documents ever saw the public light of day. All were kept under cover and away from the public process. Staff will tell you they did have a public process for these policies, but if a survey on the street was conducted, one would quickly discover that none of the people in the community, except a few hand picked persons, have any idea about the policies staff has created, or how they will affect their lives for the next 20 years.

At a recent Planning Commission work session, planning staff presented the last of the new policies to the PC Commission, with very little explanation. Staff told the Commission that all of the information given the PC was not new and could be found in the current Comprehensive Plan. But, staff indicated it might be hard to find because it all had been "rearranged". An examination of the 2004-2007 Comprehensive Plan does not produce the documents staff is referencing. They are no where to be found in the existing Comprehensive Plan. Where did they come from? At a July 15, 2015 Clark County Board of Councilors meeting, staff was directed to remove the policies from the proposed Plan. But, it appears that didn't happen. The Planning Commission is once again reviewing the very same information from 2014.

It is time for the Board of Councilors to rein in the county planning staff. No matter what the councilors say, staff is determined to do as they please. This is not good public policy and could most certainly end up with the Comprehensive Plan being done all over again.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary
Clark County Citizens United, Inc.
P.O. Box 2188, Battle Ground, Washington 98604

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