



Leslie Clark

Subject: Controversial Growing Healthier Report

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Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:10 PM
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FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD OF THE CLARK COUNTY 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Clark County should not be in the business of facilitating access to "healthy food" in the form of providing farmers markets, corner grocery stores with healthy food options, and community gardens.

That business is provided by private enterprise. The county's comprehensive plan doesn't define "healthy food," and it is a loaded term. What is considered unhealthy food by one segment of society may be considered as a dietary staple by another group of citizens. The term "healthy" is a loaded term. Who is going to define "healthy food," and on what basis would you exclude foods from that definition?

The WSU Master Gardeners Program training material says the nutritional value of organic fruits and vegetables is no different from non-organic. Most people wrongly assume a difference in quality.

The Farmers Markets may provide opportunities for entertainment, but generally, the prices are normally much higher than local grocery stores. The public should not be subsidizing retail food industries that sell out of public market facilities. The public markets compete with private enterprises that operate seasonally, on limited budgets, on small family farms. That disadvantages the small farms. It would be beneficial to provide flexible zoning options to allow more corner stores within walking distance of housing. **That is a zoning issue.**

The county collects large sums of money for park, and legacy lands. Some of that land is not being used currently for parks. If the county wants to allocate some **EXISTING** park land for community gardens without adding any further cost to the public, that could be beneficial. People who don't have victory gardens could be encouraged to be more self sufficient.

The Board of County Councilors recognized the controversies contained in the *Growing Healthier Report* and were correct in not adopting the report in June 2012, and again July 15, 2015. Clark County Citizens United suggests that any issues arising from the *Clark County Growing Healthier Report* be eliminated from the 2016 comprehensive plan update.

Thank you,
Susan Rasmussen for
Clark County Citizens United, Inc.

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