

**From:** [Rebecca Messinger](#)  
**To:** [Sonja Wiser](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Keeping our children one step away from being feral.  
**Date:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:08:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Good morning,

Please see the email below from CCCU. Thanks.



**Rebecca Messinger**  
Clerk to the Council  
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

564-397-4305



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**From:** Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 8:56 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Keeping our children one step away from being feral.



**Kathleen Otto**  
County Manager

564.397.2458



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**From:** Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <[cccuinc@yahoo.com](mailto:cccuinc@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2024 10:03 PM  
**To:** Gary Medvigy <[Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov)>; Karen Bowerman <[Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov)>; Michelle Belkot <[Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov)>; Glen Yung

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**Subject:** Fw: Keeping our children one step away from being feral.

**EXTERNAL:** This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

## Corrections

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. P.O. Box 2188 Battle Ground, Washington 98604  
E-Mail [cccuinc@yahoo.com](mailto:cccuinc@yahoo.com)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <[cccuinc@yahoo.com](mailto:cccuinc@yahoo.com)>

**To:** Gary Medvigy <[gary.medvigy@clark.wa.gov](mailto:gary.medvigy@clark.wa.gov)>; Karen Bowerman <[karen.bowerman@clark.wa.gov](mailto:karen.bowerman@clark.wa.gov)>; Michelle Belkot <[michelle.belkot@clark.wa.gov](mailto:michelle.belkot@clark.wa.gov)>; Glen Yung <[glen.yung@clark.wa.gov](mailto:glen.yung@clark.wa.gov)>; Sue Marshall <[sue.marshall@clark.wa.gov](mailto:sue.marshall@clark.wa.gov)>; Kathleen Otto <[kathleen.otto@clark.wa.gov](mailto:kathleen.otto@clark.wa.gov)>; Oliver Orjiako <[oliver.orjiako@clark.wa.gov](mailto:oliver.orjiako@clark.wa.gov)>

**Sent:** Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 07:17:06 PM PDT

**Subject:** Fw: Keeping our children one step away from being feral.

Clark County Council  
May 11, 2024  
P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, Washington 98666

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD AND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE,

Dear Councilors,

I have been working on land use issues, on the Board of Clark County Citizens United, Inc., for approximately 30 years. After college graduation, I worked as a professional dance instructor, teacher, and later, a dairywoman. Through those years I actively worked with many organizations who advocated for professionalism and social improvement. Living in the rural area, gave me a keen sense of belonging. I realized the heartaches and headaches that go with rural living. But most important it is the culture of togetherness, among ourselves and our neighbors, that was most important, through it all.

Similar to wearing denim with lace, farm and ranch mothers are the ideal blend of tough, rough and tenderness. We know the laundry is filled with Wranglers stained from mud and manure. We scrub the knees anyway, knowing they came from hard work or adventures on the land. We raise our children and help with grandkids to ensure they have the freedom to roam, play and live on the land. We help keep them one step away from being feral. Haying season often starts at the first break of light

and often ends past sunset. We fiercely love our kids and grandkids, and expect them to show kindness and respect to all. With that, we also expect County agents to show equal treatment, with kindness and respect, in return.

Rural Mothers are not unlike their urban counterparts in the fact that we want our children and grandkids to have aspirations, be happy, healthy, well fed, and safely housed. We also want them to grow, flourish and feel like they have equal access to all amenities, like sound educations, good jobs, and access to affordable housing, to allow them to continue to live in the community and the culture in which they were raised. However, the county is treating rural children unequally, in this regard. Even though these children exist as part of the rural county population, they are not being counted as rural.

As a farm Mother and grandmother, I'm not Mary Poppins. The lead up to planning the *Clark County Comprehensive Growth Plan* has already set off my concern button. The Plan is leaving the station, and the train has no intention to accommodate the housing needs for these sweet farm kids. That is not what one calls, Comprehensive! How is it, an entire segment of Clark County's population is being denied any type of housing, in communities where they were raised? How did the culture of certain people become so unimportant, that it's being disregarded?

Lets call this Plan what it is, *Clark County's Rural Displacement, High Density Urban Growth Plan*. If the planners are intending on displacing these precious farm kids, they need to be up front and admit it. Was this what the legislators actually intended, when they approved the Growth Management Act.? Is this the will of the local Legislators? Clark County Citizens United, Inc. has been arguing none stop, with planning agents, about what's right, fair and appropriate, since the first county growth plan in 1994. Our membership, 6,000 persons strong, has endured countless testimony being removed from the Public Record, accused by a county manager of "packing the record," and attempts at being denied to speak publicly at hearings.

CCCU has been denied complete compliance to our win in the Court of Appeals, which states, the county *cannot put a cap on rural growth*. Because the last update of the plan failed to have a rural option, the membership had to find someone to write one, and then make a formal presentation. The result was the Rural Alternative Plan 4. It was adopted, only to be rescinded by those who didn't care about the rural people. That was what the people wanted. Hundreds of citizens came out to support it.

Shortcomings and bias are already evident in the 2024-2025 planning process. Because so many of our rural families will continue to face displacement, many families will be disrupted and communities will be damaged. There are many effective ways to create affordable rural housing instead of forcing displacement away from familiar communities and culture. CCCU will continue our mission to open the doors on truth, equity, fairness and equality, while highlighting the importance of culture, local growth and education in community planning.

Rural mothers and urban mothers both have similar hopes and dreams for their children. One may feed lunch to a hay crew, the other a Little League team. . .or both!

Without them, there wouldn't be the next generation to plan for. But, clearly Clark County is not planning for the growth of rural children.

Sincerely,

Susan Rasmussen, President

Clark Cuntly Citizens United, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2188  
Battle Ground, Washington 98604

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