

CLARK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

OPEN HOUSE – PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Ruth Bader Ginsberg Elementary School
8408 N.E. 25th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington

7:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY

WAHLSTROM: Tom Wahlstrom, W-a-h-l-s-t-r-o-m. 11613 N.E. 107th Street in Vancouver, I don't know if it's Vancouver or Brush Prairie, but mailing address is Vancouver.

My biggest concern is the focus that the county has on development. It appears that money rules over the – what word do I want to use – livability of the county. I've been here since 1970 and I've seen a lot of growth and I've also seen that housing is more important than the infrastructure, it's always after the fact it seems to me.

Livability of the county is where I'm coming from and that takes a lot of big scope, I guess is what I'm saying and there's no right answer to it, but I'm not liking what I've observed for the last 40 years.

And I realize that there are many entities that help make the decisions I guess is what I'm going to say from the State, from the local people, you know, so the amount of input is great.

Kind of like the I-5 Bridge, why isn't the I-5 Bridge taken care of. They're talking about growth, but that bridge is a bottleneck and in addition to being probably its life expectancy is pretty darn close if that makes any sense.

I just was talking to two gentlemen so I'm trying to -- when I was in college, I took a psychology class, and they talked about an area where they were studying rats, and they put a number of rats in a certain area that they couldn't get out of. As the population grew, they asked -- the rats took care of the overpopulation, I see that happening here in Vancouver.

I've seen when I came here, I didn't know, I didn't have my door locked, I didn't lock my car door and the only thing that's really happened since then is the density and the number of people coming, very similar to what I described with the psychology statement.

I've seen the -- I don't have the data to back up what I'm thinking right now, but I'm seeing more violence, more homicides than I ever remember before, and I think that if our community is designed for people's existence and not money, that as a society we would be better off.

And I don't know if these people can do anything about it or not, but, so anyhow, that's basically what I have to say is their focus is on money versus on livability. That's it. That's a summary.

I own my own home and I'm on a fixed income and if I didn't own my own home I couldn't afford to live there, plain and simple. To me that's a sad, sad scenario when you own your own home that the environment around you doesn't allow you to live without one existing, if that's makes any sense. That's all I can think of right now that seems pertinent to the topic.