

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: [Rev. Michael Jones Jr. NAACP](#); [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Rebecca Messinger](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Jenna Kay](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#)
Cc: [Heidi Cody](#); [Larry Nelson](#); [Alondra Abrego-Viveros](#); [Michael Jones NAACP](#)
Subject: RE: Request to Admit Written Testimony into the Record – Thursday Hearing
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 3:22:51 PM
Attachments: [Agricultural Land Study Testimony From NAACP Vancouver.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day, Rev. Jones,

Thank you for providing this feedback related to the Joint Hearing to select the Preferred Land Use Alternative for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Your comments will be brought to the attention of the Council and Planning Commission ahead of the continuation of the Hearing on Jan. 15th. They will also be added to the Index of Record.

Best,



Jeff Delapena
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COMMUNITY PLANNING

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From: Rev. Michael Jones Jr. NAACP <vicepresident@naacpvancouverwa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 3:07 PM
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>; Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>; Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; Jenna Kay

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Cc: Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>; Larry Nelson
<president@naacpvancouverwa.org>; Alondra Abrego-Viveros <aabregoviveros@swecwa.org>;
Michael Jones NAACP <legalredress@naacpvancouverwa.org>

Subject: Request to Admit Written Testimony into the Record – Thursday Hearing

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.

Good evening,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to respectfully request that the attached written testimony be admitted into the official record for the Joint Clark County Planning Commission & Council Hearing, Part 2, regarding the Comprehensive Plan and agricultural lands, scheduled for this Thursday.

I will be providing oral testimony during the hearing, and this written submission reflects and complements my remarks on behalf of the NAACP Vancouver Branch. I am submitting it in advance to ensure clarity, accuracy, and inclusion in the public record.

Please let me know if there are any additional steps or information needed to facilitate this request.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Clark County.

In Truth & Justice,

Rev. Michael Jones Jr., M.Div.

Vice President, Vancouver NAACP Branch 1139-B

Chair, Legal Redress & Civil Rights Committee

vicepresident@naacpvancouverwa.org | www.naacpvancouverwa.org





NAACP
Vancouver Branch

January 13, 2026

Good evening, Council members, Commissioners, and staff,

My name is Rev. Michael Jones Jr. I serve as Vice President and Chair of the Legal Redress and Civil Rights Committee of the NAACP. I come before you tonight on behalf of the NAACP and in solidarity with the coalition of community organizations that have already spoken clearly and courageously in support of protecting Clark County's agricultural lands.

I want to be very clear: this is not simply a land-use conversation. This is a civil rights issue. This is a food security issue. This is a climate justice issue. And this is a question of whether our Comprehensive Plan will protect the people who have historically paid the highest price when planning decisions prioritize private expansion over public good.

As a public theologian rooted in Black and Afro-centric traditions, I am taught that land is not merely a commodity; it is sacred, it is generational, and it is tied to survival. Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and low-income communities understand this deeply because we have lived the consequences of displacement, environmental harm, and policy decisions made without us, but felt most heavily by us.

As you've already heard from community leaders and policy experts, the data is clear that this decision is not about capacity, but about priorities. The Agricultural Land Study that this Council unanimously required makes that unmistakable. Clark County does not need to sacrifice prime farmland to accommodate projected growth. Ninety-six percent of our designated agricultural lands are classified as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Once these lands are converted, they are gone forever.

Food sovereignty matters. Climate resilience matters. For communities already impacted by systemic racism, poverty, and environmental injustice, access to local food systems, healthy land, and ecological stability is not abstract, it is survival. You cannot talk about resilience while dismantling the very systems that sustain it. You cannot claim equity while approving decisions that deepen vulnerability.

The NAACP urges this Council to accept and act on the findings of the Agricultural Land Study, and to reject urban growth area expansions that undermine long-term food security and climate resilience. We also call on you to ensure meaningful inclusion of Tribal nations, particularly where proposed expansions impact lands near Tribal communities.

Councilmembers, planning is a moral act. The choices you make today will determine who eats, who breathes clean air, who bears risk, and who inherits opportunity. Protecting agricultural land is not anti-growth; it is pro-people, pro-future, and pro-justice.

Once the farmland is gone, we cannot get it back. But right now, you have a choice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The Rev. Michael Jones Jr., M.Div.
Vice President + Chair, Legal Redress & Civil Rights