From:	Rebecca Messinger
To:	Janet Kelly; Sue Marshall; Wil Fuentes; Glen Yung; Michelle Belkot; Matt Little
Cc:	Kathleen Otto; matthewklittle@yahoo.com; Oliver Orjiako; Jose Alvarez; Donna Goddard; Ken Lader; Cnty 2025 Comp Plan; Jose Alvarez
Subject:	RE: letter Urgent Public Safety Concerns: High-Density Housing Infrastructure, Street Widths, and Emergency Access
Date:	Monday, September 28, 2026 8:35:21 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Hello Janet,

This is to confirm receipt of your letter. I'll be sure to add it to the record.

Thank you,
Rebecca

Rebecca Messinger
Clerk to the Council
COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Phone: 564-397-4305
Email: Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov

From: Janet Kelly <jankelly@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2026 4:16 PM
To: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <matthewklittle@yahoo.com>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Rebecca Messinger <Rebecca.Messinger@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; Donna Goddard <Donna.Goddard@clark.wa.gov>; Ken Lader <Ken.Lader@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: letter Urgent Public Safety Concerns: High-Density Housing Infrastructure, Street Widths, and Emergency Access

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Rebecca, Please place this letter on the record for the October 01, 2026 hearing. I do believe this has issues that should be addressed in the Comp Plan.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Janet Kelly
9309 NE 83rd Ave
Vancouver, WA. 98662

Cell 360-798-1879

JanKelly@icloud.com

September 25, 2026

Clark County Council Members
Sue Marshall
Glen Yung
Wil Fuentes
Matt Little
Michelle Belkot
1300 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA

Subject: Urgent Public Safety Concerns: High-Density Housing Infrastructure, Street Widths, and Emergency Access

Dear Clark County Council Members,

I am writing to bring to your immediate attention a critical public safety issue that affects every resident in our community. Recently, I met with a representative of the Clark County Fire Chiefs Association, and after a lengthy discussion, it is clear they share a deep concern regarding the lack of adequate street access and water access in our newer high-density housing developments.

Currently, emergency vehicle access is routinely compromised because residents are forced to park on both sides of narrow streets, frequently blocking driveways and fire hydrants.

The Core Issues Facing Our First Responders

- **Narrow Street Approvals & Multi-Vehicle Realities:** The fire chiefs are alarmed by the narrow street widths approved during the county's permitting process. Approving high-density developments without realistic parking infrastructure creates an immediate hazard. The county's assumption that households will only have one vehicle, or that garages will be used primarily for parking rather than storage, does not match reality. Furthermore, many modern driveways cannot accommodate larger family vehicles, causing trucks to spill out into the streets and block sidewalks.
- **The Flaw in Deflecting Responsibility:** It is unacceptable for the county to dismiss this as solely an "HOA problem." The county is the entity that approved these narrow streets and inadequate parking plans in the first place, especially in areas lacking accessible mass transit. Expecting residents to walk miles to a nonexistent bus stop is impractical, and the resulting overflow parking leaves evacuation routes and fire hydrants entirely obstructed.

- **Enforcement Gaps:** Fire chiefs have also highlighted a distinct lack of county and law enforcement follow-through regarding vehicles parked in posted "No Parking" zones. Whether on public or private roads, active enforcement is essential to modifying behavior and keeping lanes open.
- **Misconceptions About Fire Equipment:** Some may assume fire trucks can simply move illegally parked vehicles out of the way. Please be advised that fire departments do not have the equipment, the legal authority, or—most importantly—the precious seconds to spare to move resident vehicles during an emergency.

Every rational person understands that when a fire breaks out, time and immediate access to water are critical. If firefighters cannot reach the source, devastation spreads rapidly with each passing minute, putting entire communities at risk. In an emergency, having a clear escape route is a necessity, not a pipe dream.

Connection to the Comprehensive Plan Update

As the Council deliberates on which alternative option to select for the Comprehensive Plan update, please keep these infrastructure realities in mind. Reports consistently show that our current Urban Growth Boundary already contains sufficient buildable land to satisfy future growth. Our community must protect our valuable agricultural and resource lands for current and future generations rather than expanding prematurely into poorly planned sprawl.

As our county grows, we must ensure our roads are wide enough to accommodate modern household vehicle needs and, above all, guarantee unhindered access for our first responders.

The three main issues we support are:

1) Safe Streets
2) Lack of necessity to expand our urban growth areas
3) Protection of agricultural and rural lands

These three issues are not inconsistent. We believe that cooperation between countywide Fire Chiefs, along with County Fire Marshalls, and our Clark County's planning staff can, and will, lead to achieving all of these goals.

Thank you for your time, your public service, and your attention to this critical life-safety matter.

Sincerely,

Janet Kelly

Cedar 49

FOCV, President

Clark County Resident

Delivered via email
Cc: Kathleen Otto
Rebecca Messinger
Donna Goddard
Jose Alvarez