



## ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL

# Council addresses recall petition in heated board time

*Posted on June 30, 2016 by Kaitlin Gillespie*

If you have five minutes and 19 seconds to spare this holiday weekend, spend it listening to Wednesday's short board time meeting.

It was the first time the councilors had the opportunity to speak publicly and candidly after Councilor Tom Mielke filed a recall campaign against Councilors Julie Olson and Jeanne Stewart, and Chair Marc Boldt.

What proceeded was a brief but heated exchange, particularly between Olson, Mielke and Councilor David Madore. I've transcribed it below.

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Olson: In light of yesterday's events, I just have a couple questions. In the spirit of transparency, and according to Councilor Madore, the truth fears no light, I have a question for Councilor Mielke. Did you write the petitions?

Mielke: I sure did.

Olson: And you did with no help from anybody else?

Mielke: Hmm?

Olson: You had no help from anyone else?

Mielke: Yeah, I did.

Olson: You did? OK, who would that be, just out of consideration for the rest of us?

Mielke: My attorney.

Olson: OK. And I have a question for both of you actually. It's pretty basic, straightforward. Prior to Jan. 1 of 2016, did you two ever meet behind closed doors on the sixth floor to talk about county policy with or without staff available.

Mielke: No.

Olson: No? OK.

Madore: No.

Olson: OK, so you're not under oath, but you are on the record, and there's an number of folks up there who can probably help your memory.

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Whoa.



Councilor Tom Mielke, a Republican, filed a recall petition against fellow Republican Councilors Julie Olson and Jeanne Stewart and Council Chair Marc Boldt, no party preference, on Tuesday.

Now, anyone who has read anything Mielke has written knows that clearly he did not write this on his own. We've documented Mielke's struggles to string sentences together on this blog, and frankly, he's usually so incoherent in county meetings that I frequently don't even bother to try to translate what he's saying so I can tweet it.

Olson's suggestion that Mielke had help, therefore, is a fair one, and a question I posed to him in a voicemail after he filed the petition.

Guess what?

I didn't hear back.

As for whether Madore and Mielke ever violated the Open Public Meetings Act by meeting one-on-one when the council was still a three-member board, well... If Olson's hinting was any indication, we're likely to hear more on that in the coming weeks.

To that end, Stewart also took a turn grilling Madore at board time.

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Stewart: I do have a question for Mr. Madore. And this is based on a need to know, because of the nature of executive session. Did you participate in any way in writing the recall? Any part of it?

Madore: Uh, this is Tom's lead, his attorney—

Stewart: That's not the question.

Madore: I'll let Tom answer that question.

Stewart: Well then you're not answering.

Mielke: You can answer it. The attorney wrote it. I gave him the information—

Stewart: I have my answer. I have my answer.

\*\*\*

Mielke went on to say "there's nothing personal" about the recall petition he filed.

"There's nothing personal in my opinion that we've violated the law, and it's been brushed over," he said. "It needs to be worked out and get through it."





## Kaitlin Gillespie

I'm the Clark County government reporter at The Columbian. Get in touch at [kaitlin.gillespie@columbian.com](mailto:kaitlin.gillespie@columbian.com) or 360-735-4517.

## Comments

5 Comments

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### Robert Freund

I presumed the five councilors would be more of a cross section of people in the County, rather than mostly prior political position participants. Power in the hands of taxpayers, with a real say, before taking money out of our wallets ? Hmmmm, guess not. Carry On !!!! p.s. Handle the business, quit making excuses to suck more revenue out of rules and regulations no one wants or needs. Good Day

Reply · Jul 4, 2016 10:42am



### Marc Lein · Vancouver, Washington

Awww whittle Madore Derangement Syndrome folks angry lol

Reply · Jul 2, 2016 7:51am



### Alex Reinhold · Research Leader at Pawsitive Places

I am just thrilled this is the best thing they can do with my tax money, it makes me proud to go to work everyday and pay for this non-sense. Thank God there are five people who have made a conscious decision to waste this much time and money.

Reply · 1 · Jul 1, 2016 2:34pm



### Sean Emerson

"We've documented Mielke's struggles to string sentences together on this blog, and frankly, he's usually so incoherent in county meetings that I frequently don't even bother to try to translate what he's saying so I can tweet it."

Is this what passes for objective journalism at the Columbian? I've seen more objective reporting in high school newspapers. And you wonder that your rag has developed a reputation for being a biased mouthpiece of the Democrat party instead of the citizen's watchdog?

Reply · Jul 1, 2016 3:27am



### Loretta Thomas

Don't Blog much, do you Mr Emerson? Maybe it's time to check out the definition of what a 'blog' is, or don't go to any source at all that has 'blog' in it's header for your 'objective journalism'.

Reply · 5 · Jul 1, 2016 10:14am



### Robert Ives · Vancouver, Washington

The whole point of a blog is to allow for a wide latitude of opinion and dialog. Apart from that, anyone who has watched Mr. Mileke over the years knows that he rarely states or writes coherent arguments. His comments most often resemble the stream of consciousness ramblings of an



elderly man awakening from a nice nap. The "petition", strangely unsigned by Mielke's attorney (another odd issue), is obviously not the work product of Mr. Mielke. It is entirely reasonable to query who may have had a hand in its production, and I believe Mr. Mielke needs to be forthcoming in discussing how and why he feels compelled to front for the "real" authors - at the least he should tell us who his legal talent is. Because it is not signed by Mr. Mielke's attorney, one can only assume that an attorney was uncomfortable with its provenance and did not want to sign the finished product. Or... that the legalese was not the product of a licensed attorney, but of an interested non-lawyer familiar enough with legal writing and the requirements of motion briefs to construct a passable recall petition. The context and content of the petition point to drafting-by-committee, with Mr. Madore and Mr. Mielke having significant roles, among others.

Reply ·  3 · Jul 2, 2016 10:05am · Edited



**Sean Emerson**

A blog under the banner of the Columbian Newspaper reflects on the newspaper. Maybe the Columbian should rename itself the blogpaper. Katie Gillespie bills herself as "Columbian County Government Reporter." Maybe she should change it to "Columbian County Government Blogger."

Reply · Jul 2, 2016 9:59am



**Katie Gillespie** · County Government Reporter at The Columbian

Haters gonna hate hate hate hate.

Reply ·  7 · Jul 2, 2016 11:43am



**Sean Emerson**

Katie Gillespie well, you should know, since you're one of the lead inmates of the Madore Derangement Syndrome (MDS).

You're too wet behind the ears to remember Walter Cronkite. He was considered the most trusted man in America, because until 1968 he never let his personal biases influence his reporting of the news. He followed stories without an agenda, telling however many sides of the story there were without endorsing any side. People trusted him because he never gave them any reason to think he might be coloring his reporting of the news. He just told it like it was and let the pieces fall where they may.

With the sort of rabid, overtly biased MDS you display here, the way you cherry pick your data, spin it however necessary to put Madore in a bad light, and openly display your derision on this "blog," you completely abdicate any pretense of objectivity in your more professional byline that's not a "blog." As near as I can tell, the only difference between this "blog" and your "news" byline is that you make an extra pass through the "news" and tone down the snark.

Like I've observed before, I've seen more objectivity in a high school newspaper. You don't seem to even care about being taken seriously as a professional journalist. Brancaccio can run his rag into the ground however he pleases. If you worked on a paper I owned, we'd have a remedial skull session about what it means to be a journalist, and if you couldn't reign it in, I'd fire you.

Reply ·  1 · Jul 2, 2016 5:44pm



**Sean Emerson**

Bill Savoie always easy to throw epithets. Harder to actually engage with substance.

Reply · Jul 2, 2016 10:02pm



**Sean Emerson**

Bill Savoie, and what exactly does that have to do with the substance of my remarks on the lack of objectivity on the part of intrepid Clark County government reporter?

Trolls to the left of me, trolls to the right. . . .

And not one of them will actually address the issue, but will continue personal attacks. Is this a side effect of Madore Derangement Syndrome?

Reply ·  1 · Jul 3, 2016 8:10am



**Sean Emerson**

Bill Savoie Not changing the subject at all. You changed the subject by calling me a troll, instead of addressing my point with anything remotely like substance. But I expect nothing more from someone infected with MDS.

Reply ·  1 · Jul 3, 2016 8:31am



**Robert Ives** · Vancouver, Washington

Sean Emerson : Seems like a natural question is: What newspapers have you owned?

Reply ·  1 · Jul 6, 2016 1:16pm



**Sean Emerson**

Robert Ives non-sequitor question. You don't have to have owned a newspaper to know yellow journalism when you see it. Unless you didn't make it past sixth grade.

Reply · Jul 6, 2016 5:55pm



**Robert Ives** · Vancouver, Washington

Sean Emerson your quote: " If you worked on a paper I owned, we'd have a remedial skull session about what it means to be a journalist, and if you couldn't reign it in, I'd fire you." I'm betting that if you actually ever owned a newspaper you would have encountered a spell checker or editor. I guess you have not done either.

Reply ·  1 · Jul 8, 2016 8:37am



**Sean Emerson**

Robert Ives Typical. Nothing of substance. I have two books published, and am a regular contributor to a local news outlet. I have editing tools on steroids like you've never seen. I wasn't aware that it was so important to meet your standards of precision on a comment thread. If that's all you got, then I'm going to assume that you have nothing to offer on the actual substance of the discussion?

Reply · Jul 8, 2016 9:27am



**Linda Wallers** · Analyst at Retired

I thought that, when I left the DC area, that politics would be a boring back story, not a soap opera as exists in the Nation's Capitol. Boy, was I wrong. The M & M crew are more entertaining than any reality show on TV.

Reply ·  4 · Jun 30, 2016 9:43pm

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