

From: **Brian Ouellette (Founder)**<brian@askmyadvisor.co>

Date: Thu, Oct 20, 2022 at 1:08 PM

Subject: Re: VOTE YES on Clyde Hill Prop 1

***Quick preface:** To begin with, I, like probably some of you, have little interest in being engaged in politics. Recent developments in Clyde Hill and serving as Chair of the Civil Service Commission have forced me to intervene in some matters impacting the Clyde Hill Police Department and the finances of Clyde Hill. Please take a moment to read this and get in touch with me if you need any clarification(s). Brian Ouellette*

I am in full agreement with Brian Vowinkel on voting YES for Prop 1.

Also, as a result of recent issues between the current strong mayor system of Clyde Hill and the Clyde Hill Police Dept. (we recently lost an officer and are down to 6), **your yes vote has become even more important.**

Considering the potential impact on safety and finances in Clyde Hill of a no-vote win, take 60 seconds to read this in its entirety.

Quick preface

For several months we were lobbied by some friends of ours on the no side.

I was fine with that and looked at it as, "if it's not broken, don't fix it."

Due to what I have learned recently, **I have done a 180-degree turn to fully support Prop 1** because it has become broken in multiple areas.

As Chair of the Clyde Hill Civil Service Commission, I have been speaking with Clyde Hill Police Department officers about concerns with the administration over the past several weeks.

October 12, 2022

Here is a [letter from the Clyde Hill Police Teamsters union citing various concerns with the current administration, lack of transparency and broken trust,](#)

Additionally, I have learned of other financial issues and question marks going on, aside from the CHPD.

In simplest terms, your yes vote moves us FROM:

- **(Current system) Strong mayor system.** There is a concentration of power in the hands of one individual (in our case it's an uncompensated, volunteer resident). *"In a typical strong-mayor system, the elected mayor is granted almost total administrative authority with the power to appoint and dismiss department*

heads." <https://icma.org>

TO

- **(Prop 1 Yes) Council-Manager system.** DILUTED power among several members (council members, city manager, rotating mayor). In our case in Clyde Hill, it will be decisions by "several" vs. one.

Dilution does what it says...

It shifts the concentrated power and control from one person (currently an uncompensated, volunteer resident) to several residents and a compensated city manager (the council-manager system is what Medina has always had).

Here is a snapshot from the Prop 1 Yes website, yesonclydehillprop1.org

Will this create a potential for abuse of power?

The Council-Manager form of government was actually established at the turn of the 20th century to address abuse of power. The Council-Manager form moves power from a *single* person (the Mayor) and puts that power to the *group* of seven council members. This better prevents the potential for abuse of power. With the current Mayor-Council format, the Mayor has sole authority.

Will this put the key city decisions into the hands of a few?

The Council-Manager format will actually take the key decisions away from a single person (the Mayor) and puts it in the hands of **seven council members**.

At a minimum, **your yes vote and passing of Prop 1 automatically brings more eyeballs in to oversee all that is going on in Clyde Hill vs. it being controlled by one volunteer mayor in the current strong mayor system.**

This can immediately begin to rebuild and strengthen the damaged relationships with the Clyde Hill Police Department.

About the red no signs in the neighborhood

Noted on the no signs you see the tagline, "don't lose your right to vote for mayor."

Please note, the mayor seat in Clyde Hill has run uncontested for over 2 decades.

However, I have learned that this volunteer position of one resident surprisingly has a lot of control, say, and weight in determining how OUR CLYDE HILL Police Department, finances, and town operate.

It's probably the reason for this "no response" (see image) in June 2022 from the mayor, when Prop 1 was activated.

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage, but the election called for by this resolution will occur and the date set by this resolution and the change in form of government will not occur until the date set by this resolution.

PASSED by the City Council ~~and APPROVED by the Mayor~~ of the City of Clyde Hill at a regular meeting held the 28th day of June, 2022.

CITY OF CLYDE HILL, WASHINGTON:

Mayor signature REFUSED
MARIANNE KLAAS, MAYOR

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED: AS TO FORM

Dean Rohla
CITY CLERK, DEAN ROHLA

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

BY Tom Brubaker 6/29/22
TOM BRUBAKER, LIGHTHOUSE LAW GROUP
CITY ATTORNEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 6/28/22
EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/28/22
RESOLUTION NO.: 678

Are you aware of this?

We recently had one of our seven police officers leave CHPD. This leaves us with only six for Clyde Hill and Yarrow Point.

We are in the midst of trying to hire a replacement police officer.

As a result of our non-competitive wages (another reason the budget needs fixing), as it stands, we are left having to hire a newbie versus a veteran police officer.

What is the timeline to replace the CHPD officer we lost?

Because of the time involved to develop a new officer, at best, **we are 12 months out to replace the officer we just lost.**

At a time in Clyde Hill where we are seeing the highest level of property crimes, we have ever seen in our decade here.

Property crimes are gateways to more serious crimes.

In his exit interview, Officer Stroble, who just left the CHPD, noted broken trust as a contributing factor.

From what I have gathered, Officer Stroble is an officer we did not have to lose.

Here is a snapshot from the Clyde Hill Teamsters' letter to the mayor and council:

Next, we would like to dispel the rumor(s) that were started by the administration that former Clyde Hill Police Officer Iradj Stroble was a disgruntled employee. Officer Stroble had several dealings with the City Administrator and Finance Manager that had a negative effect on his family's life during his three plus years with the Police Department. He spoke plainly about his distrust for the administration during his Exit Interview with Councilmembers Muromoto and Friedman. Any explanation that was given, that he was a disgruntled employee, by the administration is an effort to deflect responsibility for the lack of professionalism displayed towards Officer Stroble.

Your vote is an important one to cast next week (possibly sooner as ballots are going out soon).

Making some sense? The next, best steps:

- Go to <https://yesonclydehillprop1.org> and register
- Order yard signs here (currently, we are outnumbered 2 to 1 I've been told)
- Let your neighbors know (text, email, phone, in person) why voting for Prop 1 matters to them, their families
- *"If it ain't broken, don't fix it," is NOT THE CASE currently, things have become broken*
- **Vote yes on Prop 1 to help fix this.**

One final note

We risk losing more Clyde Hill police officers if Prop 1 fails.

That is how big this "broken trust" issue has become since Mayor George Martin stepped down.

Any questions(s), just reply and/or go to yesonclydehillprop1.org/ and ask.

They are very responsive. Brian

For more information here is data from
<https://yesonclydehillprop1.org/> below:

1. See [Council-Manager or "Strong Mayor": The Choice is Clear](#)
2. Oct 14th: From an item in the City Council meeting packet for Oct 18th: "The **union representing Clyde Hill police officers** sent a letter 'to express [their] **concerns regarding the performance and conduct of Mayor Klaas and City Administrator Rohla.**" [Here is the union letter](#)
3. Oct 1st: **Scott Moore**, Clyde Hill City Council Position 2, is the **longest-serving council member**. He wrote this letter for the Clyde Hill News detailing **the many failings of our Mayor-Council government** [Why I support Proposition One and Urge You to Vote ✓ For It](#)