



June 26, 2008 – Municipal Jail Public Forum Comments Recorded on Flip Charts

Note: Flip charts were used at each table; comments are grouped by table

Table

Top five factors city should consider

- How will city pay for building/site acquisition
- What will the city do to get the issue in front of the minority population?
- Have we exhausted all options in region for a regional solution?
- What assurances will we get from city that jail will be used only for misdemeanors?
- What effect will the jail have on the quality of life in neighborhood?
- Proximity to services, etc.
 - Job retraining
 - Social services
 - Jobs for work release
 - Transportation
 - Temporary housing

What is our biggest concern about a jail?

- Reaffirmation that south end should continue to be suppressed
- Share the burden with the north end
- Transportation issue and buses
- Young population is in need of positive economic development
- Impact to local residents land value and safety
- Senior housing will exist right next to Myers Way site
- Significant environmental impact to both sites in H. Park

What things city can do to address our concerns?

- More for alternatives to jail
- Invest in big community improvements
 - Repairing roads
 - School improvements
 - Community centers
 - Better public transport/light rail
 - Transportation and social service right by jail – or better yet, get them out of our neighborhood upon release
 - Let inmates out at reasonable hours

Table

Why is the timeline so tight?

How many beds at the site selected?

Future expansion?

A court too?

Greenbelt impact?

No amenities.

Why wasn't the mayor here? City council?

Inconsistencies:

- County will extend contract
- Senior housing site at Myers Way site

Table

Why one story?

- Other sites could be considered if more than one story
- Why 7 acres?

Gateway to Highland Park/White Center

Why are there two sites in Highland Park/White Center?

Myers Way within walking distance of:

- Schools
- Greenbridge
- Wooded area
- Unprotected

Why build a jail?

Alternatives to jail?

- What is being looked at?

Economically depressed area

- Community working to improve image
- Affect housing values

How does a release without private transportation leave the proposed facility during the early morning hours when public service is not existant?

Cut in sheriffs office – King County

Table

Too close to residential and senior housing

Impact on wetlands, Hamm Creek headwaters

Lack of public transport, where will people go?

Increased traffic in the neighborhood

Already has police station, training facility, waste management

What happens when the prisoners are released?

- Increased crime
- Loitering
- Homelessness

Negative Impact

- Public spaces (parks, etc.)
- Property values
- Psychological stigma
- Dumping ground

Race and Social Justice Initiative – building families and communities

Biggest Concern

- Psychological stigma
- Impact on community
- Proximity to good public spaces (schools, park, greenbelt)

Why don't we have priority in the county justice system?

- Use existing justice system
- Fully explore county option

Expand Regional Justice Center

Address traffic and environment impacts

Address economic development concerns in the area

Rehabilitation/alternative programs to incarceration

How to insure it only house misdemeanors not felons

Table

Transportation/traffic issues

Proximity to courts, existing county downtown

Cost of building

Will cap on property taxes stay the same

Westland's and Myer's Way

Releasing location and procedures

Supporting services should be already available

- Hotels for visitation
- Food services
- Bail bonds

Away from vulnerable population

- Elderly
- Day school

Table

Property Values

Family neighborhood

Partnering seems to be off the table

Define terms of key factors for elimination

How are those reasons superior to our needs/concerns?

What defines fatally flawed?

RJC is a commercial area, not a neighborhood

Table

Zoning

Wetlands

Loss of lives of officers trying to “clean up” our neighborhoods, a jail here negates their sacrifice

Transportation access issues

What community leaders were involved?

What were there political interests in a jail being in our neighborhoods?

Fatally flawed?

Property tax

Social services

Amenities

Lack of communication to neighborhood and businesses

Table

Top 5 factors

- Economic and other impacts on communities struggling with high crime rates
- Consider a high rise building closer to downtown
- Partner with King County
- Selecting a low-rise facility appears to be arbitrary
- Don't build on a wetland

Biggest concerns about the jail site

- Economic justice
- The process of narrowing down to four sites

Top three ways the city can address your concerns

- Closer to urban center – closer to courts and services
- Find a way to change public perception that the south Seattle communities are unsafe, unclean, etc.
- Develop a way to monitor the impacts of the facility and actions to deal with the problems

Table

Top 5 factors

- Proximity to neighborhoods and schools
- Proximity to services – downtown has that infrastructure in place
- Proximity to transportation
- Over used infrastructure and inadequate bus service
- Full disclosure of the process – transparency of early discussions, who made decisions

Biggest concerns about the jail site

- We don't have the resources to fight against it
- Re-evaluate all locations

Top three ways the city can address your concerns

- Provide transparency for earlier decisions
- Does not belong in any neighborhoods
- Can you ensure there will be low or no financial, environmental or safety impact?

Table

Top 5 Concerns

- Proximity to housing and residential neighborhoods, especially vulnerable at risk homes like single parents, low-income, the elderly, etc.

- Where will the 30% of detainees who are homeless go when released?
- Poor transportation access – all traffic must go across First Ave. bridge
- What are the costs (city wide) to public safety officers transporting offenders to jail?
- These sites are gateway sites to our neighborhood – we are concerned concern about what this will say about our neighborhood?
- We are concerned about the environmental issues on both sides
 - Hamm Creek Watershed
 - Duwamish Waterway
 - Historic Duwamish Tribal area
- Our biggest concern:
 - The overall impact all these concerns have on the quality of life in out neighborhood
 - This is the gateway to our community

What could the city do to mitigate?

- Devise some way to get people out of our neighborhood and out of the greenbelt
- Re-examine the original decision criteria – show in detail why other sites were dropped from consideration

Table

Why were the 35 initial sites eliminated without public input?

What is displacement of economic activity?

- What does that mean for us?

People incarcerated at Kent for long terms – not the same thing – high turn over rate

Why did the city/county separate?

Prefer Kent expansion

Services provided in downtown, we don't have those

Concern about releasing “misdemeanor” people in our neighborhood

Property value decrease

Myers way – environment impact ruined by training facility

Find alternative sites not near neighborhoods

Southern neighborhoods are not Seattle's dumping ground

- We are a target because we do not have the same economic strength as other neighborhoods

Put it in a commercial area with services, the services should be in place before the jail site is chosen

City should put its citizens welfare over economic/budget issues

Public safety concerns

We are working hard to improve our neighborhood – the jail will stop that momentum

No bus service – how do people get in and out of our neighborhood?

Table

Seven factors to consider

- Close to courts
- Not near dense residential
- Near existing jail services
- Near good public transportation
- Not near children's recreational areas
- Not near any neighborhood's gateway
- Environmental harm should be avoided

Biggest Concerns

- Resident's safety
- Property values
- Location of prisoner releases
- Increase in criminal element nearby
- Stigma to neighborhood
- Too close to children
- Faulty/flawed selection criteria

Mitigation

- Social justice requires distributing unwelcome facilities
- More rehab programs
- \$154 million new South Park Bridge
- Power structure works against low income areas so how can this be mitigated?
- Lid over 99 that cuts South Park in half
- How to put more site infrastructure
- Community burden – we are already carrying our share

Table

City should partner with the county and other cities

County has agreed to extend the agreement to 2014 (county council)

The sites are flawed, too close to neighborhoods

Should locate downtown, high-rise, would be just as effective

Density is a local priority and is consistent with multi-use property

The location is too far away to support rehabilitation and visiting

Concern for inmates being released in close proximity to neighborhoods

What will be the process to address the comments received?

Wetlands are an issue at the sites

Liquefaction zone at W. Marginal Way site

Reduce pollution by locating downtown

Table

Factors/Concerns/Ideas

- County – working with to increase RJC expansion
- Get updated study using current data (last study done in 1999)
- Carbon footprint of new jail
- Reconsider high rise option
 - Take into consideration community cost, community safety
- Use former municipal building site
- Up zone current jail
- Consider the effect of losing industrial land – same legislation was passed last year to preserve ALL Seattle industrial zones
- Public transportation access by more than one bus line
- 30% of misdemeanants are homeless
- Proximity to greenbelt and parks
- The economy: with budget cuts can we really afford a facility?
- Leading statements in material – i.e. jail has to go somewhere
- Social and environmental justice in the south end (#1 concern)
- Criminal trespass offenders in neighborhood – top five list of offenders – where will they trespass?
- Size of the property – how big does it need to be?
- Concerned that Seattle will contract out and bring in offenders from other cities – use as an income generator