

Good morning, my name is Steven Deters and I am representing the Aurora Avenue Merchants Association. We are against the placement of the jail in the Aurora North neighborhood and I wish to point out a few reasons that many have not been otherwise considered.

- 1) Although, the city can, by eminent domain, acquire the property, it must pay fair market value. Seven acres of land in one contiguous piece in this commercial zoned area has a fair market value of how many hundreds of millions?
- 2) If the city acquires this property it will stop collecting taxes on it, in order to make up for the loss of income, property taxes will be increased. Some people will say that they don't pay property taxes. But, if a landlord doesn't charge tenants for property taxes, they cannot remain in business; a shop owner must mark up his costs and then charge his customers the increased amount.
- 3) Others have the information on closeness to homes, schools, and etc. much more accurately than I, so I won't restate.
- 4) One detrimental effect that we see is that of transport of prisoners. The transport of inmates on a day-to-day basis to and from the court- house downtown will possibly take twenty police officers off the streets, which we don't have now.
- 5) Why not locate a jail on city property closer to the courthouse.