



July 12, 2008 – Municipal Jail Public Forum Caucus Discussion Questions

What are the top five factors the City should consider in siting the Municipal Jail?

- Safety of neighborhoods – number of schools, daycare, residences in close proximity should be minimal
- Access/cost of access to Regional Justice Center
- Neighborhood safety was not even a site selection factor!
- Use city owned property
- Minimize environmental impact/don't build on a wetland
- Proximity to schools/neighborhoods/parks
- Location to court buildings – save on gas to transfer criminals
- This area already has a drainage problem, cost to fix this problem?
- Put near an industrial area
- Size – largest site, better for parking and expansion
- Transportation – poor on Aurora and no parking around site
- Policing – north precinct is largest with fewest police officers
- Site itself – Aurora site is flood plain, very costly to control and build upon and will require new streets, street lights, etc. to access
- Not in a residential neighborhood
- Not impacting existing private properties
- Use existing city property
- Not in a neighborhood near children
- On city land so no additional expense is required to purchase land
- Traffic flow – how the jail will affect the area with traffic
- Bus issue – security concerns
- Impact on tenants, business
- Safety
- Cost of fuel – distance from courts
- Cost of future expansion
- Cost of protracted lawsuits
- Impact
- Existing crime rate
- Youth exposure to increased negative influence
- Social program available in the community (resources for released inmates)
- Cost of transportation (to city hall downtown courthouse)
- Expandable property
- Does not border residential property
- Should not use money to acquire site
- Should use city owned property
- One jail is more cost efficient than two – find a way to work with King County
- Small site – not expandable
- Drainage problems
- Distant from court house
- Infrastructure
- Remove police from street for transport
- Use city owned property

- Don't displace existing businesses
- Viable site – allow for larger facility
- Closer to courts – lower transportation costs
- Don't accelerate existing drug and prostitution problems
- Use city owned property
- Choose a site in a neighborhood that can withstand the stigma and adverse impacts a jail will impose. Northgate lags other neighborhoods in terms of property values etc.
- Choose a site that will not displace a recreational facility
- Choose a high-rise jail near services appropriate for recently released inmates
- If a downtown site is not chosen, then choose a site with the lowest residential density
- Did anyone bring up that the jail will have a work release site?
- Build a high-rise in downtown Seattle
- Draining issues at Puetz Lake
- Availability of social and medical services
- Zoning and neighbors
- Property values of neighbors
- Environment impact
- Cost. If the city owns a possible site, use it. Save money.
- Proximity to the courthouse
- Safety
- Residential density
- Transportation
- Safety – residential density
- Transportation
- Property values
- Comprising area value – urban
- Cost
- Schools nearby
- Impact on businesses nearby including NW Hospital
- Safety of citizens in neighborhood – would undo efforts of Hub Urban Center to clean up neighborhood
- Reduce property values which would reduce property taxes and eliminate taxes on Puetz Golf Courses and eliminate jobs
- More people would drive rather than travel on the 358 bus, which at times can be an adventure, 358 would become unused
- Safety
- Environmental impact
- Cost
- Residential and community degradation
- Transportation
- 5 schools – at least 1 elementary
- Impact on local businesses
- Elimination of tax base for city from golf course
- Goes against recent neighborhood efforts to clean up area for resident safety
- Reduce property values of homes in area
- Using property city already owns
- Join with other cities in common site
- Costs

- Noise
- Traffic – every inmate has a lawyer
- The number of schools in the area
- We already have problems with drugs and prostitution
- Insufficient police force in the North end
- The site is privately owned
- Distance to the courthouse
- Highly residential area that has lots of children and seniors that walk and play in
- Criminal activity/homeless have had a perceptible increase. The assumption is that a jail close to this area would negatively increase this problem
- Not in residential neighborhood
- Not purchasing new land – use existing
- We – no – jail
- Security for neighborhood
- Room for future expansion
- Do not displace a viable business contributing to employment and economy
- Support for inmates in area when released
- Schools nearby
- Flood zone
- Size of location
- Children living in neighborhood
- Close to residences
- Site should not be near residential areas
- Site should not be near schools
- Proximity to residential property – value and security diminished
- Proximity to courts – hello??
- Proximity to I-5 – the escape route
- Proximity to protected shoreline
- Cost to taxpayers
- Does the site fit in with current land use/neighborhoods and not just the parcel in question!
- Does the location of the jail have the potential to contribute to increased crime in the surrounding area?
- There's no need to purchase a new site when the city already owns viable sites
- Already limited police security in this area
- Too close to residential areas with seniors and many schools
- Bus 358 already has serious security problems, it doesn't need this added questionable traffic
- Farthest distance to court house of all proposed sites
- Schools/daycares
- Work release programs
- Next to a cemetery and hospital
- Aurora is finally improving, don't ruin it!
- Costs
- Work cooperatively with county
- Follow criteria published
- Safety for residents, families, children and students
- Traffic congestion and transportation costs

- Finding an industrial site with city
- Type social services for those
- Recently incarcerated – good transportation
- Indications of the effort to obtain guarantee from county?
- Mentioned it is more efficient to operate one jail, isn't this a reason to be attractive for the county and all the cities to work together and build an expansion
- Why 7 acres?
- Close to courthouse
- Use city owned property
- Separation from residential use
- Least environmental impact
- Least transportation cost and impact

What is your biggest concern about the jail at this site?

- This is the only location that is not surrounded by commercial or industrial areas at the proposed site. Instead, there are numerous residences, schools, and daycares very near the location. Also, it's the farthest site from the justice center making transportation more costly.
- Aurora already has a drug and prostitution problem! As well as flea infested motels! This will only add to the problem. The cemeteries are at further risk of vandalism.
- Too close to very populated areas of elderly and young.
- Impact on neighborhood, property values, increased traffic, etc.
- Only one bus route to and from downtown near this site, too close to residential area, schools, stores, decrease of property value, we don't want a jail in our backyards, regardless of what it looks like, it attracts too many seedy types to the jail
- My kids and other people's kids
- Cost to taxpayers for extra fuel
- Cost to taxpayers for legal
- Cost to taxpayers for additional future sites
- Already existing crime rate/prostitution will increase – impact of weekly offender release in residential area with greater than 6 schools within 2 miles will be immeasurable, is the city prepared to accept this responsibility?
- It borders residential property...too many schools and residents are close. There are more than 1000 residential units within 600 yards of the Puetz site. That's a large senior population as well.
- Location is in a landscape depression essentially a rain run off catch basin. If a jail is built there the city would have to evacuate jail inmates in a flood.
- The Aurora site has the highest residential density compared with other sites
- Decline in property values
- Decline in view
- Poor zoning plan
- Neighborhood safety. This is a vast residential neighborhood. Several schools in this area. A one mile border is nothing in the event of escapes.
- Safety on urban trail and cemetery homeless camping out there
- Criminal setting-up business for drugs and sex in neighborhood and hanging out on Urban Trail and cemetery. If homeless setting up camp in neighborhood on Urban Trail or in cemetery
- Safety and neighborhood degradation

- Increase in criminal activities degradation of neighborhood, more homelessness in the area
- Felons in the neighborhood and their cohorts
- The proximity to schools
- Location is all wrong
- Increase in local crime
- Security for neighborhood – aurora site has a very high concentration of residences and schools putting the highest number of people at risk
- Near residential community
- My home is within walking distance. The crime level in the area is already too high. By adding a jail to the area, it will only increase the violence and further degrade the area.
- Property values and security, misdemeanors are mostly property crimes. It's the only driving range and the city's oldest in North Seattle, it will disappear replaced by a jail, very sad.
- Released inmates – putting them on a street with relatively high crime rates, close to neighborhoods and close to the cemetery where homeless could congregate is a bad idea.
- It will be close to residential areas with many senior centers and schools.
- Released inmates staying in the neighborhood as transients.
- Location in the wetland that floods in a Hub Urban Village
- Cost of high-rise vs. four sites – are you considering the costs of transportation to outlying sites over the course of the jail's life?
- Conflict with the city's commitment to develop a vibrant Bitter Lake Hub Urban Village

Given that the jail has to go somewhere, what are the top three things the City could do to address your concerns?

- Locate it closer to the Justice Center
- Locate it in a more industrial/commercial area or buffered by a industrial/commercial area
- Minimize environmental impact – high-rise vs. sprawl
- Greenhouse gas and gas costs
- Tell Nickels to walk the walk about reducing environmental impact
- Location away from public parks and neighborhoods
- Cost to build without adding special architectural effects
- Invest in rehab and treatment
- Can you add more floors to current jail?
- Explore open areas outside of the city
- Consider other areas such as Sand Point Air Field
- Use already city owned property as much as possible
- Security for neighborhood
- Foot patrol, bike patrol, no loitering
- No graffiti, neighborhood police presence
- More programs for crime prevention
- More programs for rehabilitation and transition back into community
- Put it in the industrial areas of Seattle away from residential areas
- Present a security design that would address our concerns
- Address real issues on why there are so many folks in jail
- Pick a site with least impact

- Pick a site close to courts
- Pick a site that can be expanded without additional acquisition
- Use land which will become available to the city within the foreseeable future – even though it will be in an affluent neighborhood – instead of selling the area for building of multimillion dollar homes to those who can afford it
- Inmates access to social programs, a downtown jail would make more sense, to find work, mental illness, and homelessness
- Use city owned property – don't spend money to acquire
- Cost effective – one jail downtown, close to resources and courthouse
- Use city property closer to courthouse
- This area is too residential
- Increase N. Seattle officer presence
- Proper environmental impact evaluation
- How to deal with drainage issue for N. Seattle site
- Provide special transportation away from jail 24 hours a day
- Provide increased police patrols in the area
- Guarantee that there will be more room for future expansion
- Architecturally the complex should not be campus style – takes up too much square footage of land which is very expensive (plus the cost of flooding on a grass field)
- Put jail in industrial zoning
- Use city property
- Build it close to the court house
- Build it away from residential areas
- Use sites you have – you won't have to spend taxpayer to buy a site you don't have
- Need police on urban trail and cemetery
- Drainage
- Do not put the jail in a residential area! (or near residential areas)
- Save money – put the jail on city owned property!
- Consider environmental impact!
- Need police patrol on urban trail and in cemetery
- Drainage
- Locate jail on city-owned property – save legal and financial costs
- The safety of school children and seniors
- Offer viable sites
- Look at a remote site elsewhere in state or downtown high-rise
- Release inmates downtown where support is available for them
- Build in commercial
- Flood zone
- Land ownership
- Locate the jail in a secure area! Not next to residences!
- It's jail! We don't need special architecture to make it look like a clinic
- Take more time with this decision
- Do not release inmates at the site – transport them to a location downtown
- Provide security on all 358 buses (which would be transporting many released inmates)
- Provide increased police presence in surrounding neighborhoods and along Aurora
- Continue with proposal for Aurora Ave. improvements/cleanup
- Great increase in police protection in the north end
- Tax break to all local residents in the area to compensate for a drop in property values

- Have shuttle to deliver released prisoners directly to a viable address
- Build it close to the court house
- Cost of gas and traffic
- Further from residential
- Analyze, research costs
- Use a city or county owned site
- When will city learn to do outreach and publicize meetings?
- Locate the jail next to the courthouse
- Use city owned property
- High-rise jail has less environmental impact – it's dense