



## July 12, 2008 – Municipal Jail Public Forum Comments Recorded on Flip Charts

*Note: Flip charts were used at each table;  
comments are grouped by the table on which they appeared.*

### Table #1

- Convenient to Municipal Courthouse
- Use-city owned property
- Separation from residential property (real people)
- Minimize environmental impact (flood zone?)
- Minimize negative transportation impact
- Conflict with city's commitment to urban village
- Locate jail next to courthouse
- Use city-owned property
- High-rise would have less environmental impact

### Table #2

- Aurora Ave. Merchants Association Steve Deters – Rep
- Sue – Bitter Lake Senior
- Joan – Bitter Lake Senior
- Sheryl and Jeremy – Haller Lake
- This is the smallest site
- Traffic congestion, difficult access, lack of parking
- Cannot be enlarged
- How will you manage flood plain? Drainage issues
- Cost? Fair market value not determined – city owns Myers Way
- Most housing and schools here (1000 within 600 yards) (7 within a mile)
- We are most urban, least industrial site here
- Pedestrian and bus use is high here
- 5 and point been considered? (former naval)
- Crime activity on Aurora with drugs and prostitution
- What resources for released inmates?
- Transporting prisoners – this is the farthest site to downtown courthouse – takes police off street to move them – cost of transport. We have largest precinct with least officers at north
- 5 – 50 inmates released
- Northgate already has high theft rate – mall/cars
- This is only entirely private owned site – owner does not want to sell – would have to deal with imminent domain
- Property tax increase to make up for lost income we all pay for it
- Kent facility is in commercial area, not residential area, our site is most residential Myers has very few residents nearby
- High schools (like Ingram) will have to use mass transit with released inmates
- Stone Way will need to be relit 2 blocks

### Table #3

- Factors to consider
  - Eminent domain – money and can lengthen process
  - Impact on almost exclusively residential neighborhood – senior housing, schools, daycares, affordable housing
  - Size of site – N. Aurora is smallest – other sites offer room to expand
  - Transportation options
  - Accessible arterials
  - Remote, open space
  - Environmental impact
- Concerns about jail
  - Safety impacts on surrounding residential areas, especially senior housing
  - Metro 358 already crowded and dangerous
  - Merchants and community groups have been trying to improve the area – a jail would set this process back
  - Open space around site would encourage crime (e.g. cemetery, Interurban trail)
  - Environmental impact – far from the courthouse
  - Flooding
  - Aurora site might decrease police presence in other locations
- Ways city can address concerns
  - Need increase in police presence (bike, etc.)
  - Investments in surrounding area prior to jail (sidewalk lighting)
  - More transportation options – transit safety needed
  - Establish clear emergency communication procedures with surrounding residence
  - Guarantee no felons will be housed at jail in the future

### Table #4

- Factors:
  - Homeless/drug addicted released inmates using local parks and trail resources
  - Residential proximity
  - Jail impact data? Specific to site
    - Research data is old
  - Safety!! – lack of sufficient police assets
  - Cost – city already owns 2 sites – closing local business
  - Proximity to courthouse
  - Compromising area revitalization
  - Property values – tax revenue
  - Public transportation
    - Downtown routes (358)
  - Environmental impact
  - Viability of sewage system
    - Impact on residential neighborhoods

### Table #5

- More property for multi-city facility?
- Expansion in 2025?
  - How many more beds will be needed?
- Puetz property acquired via eminent domain costs? – Land acquisition cost and time?
- Traffic increase
- Additional strain on police/add to current drug and prostitution area
- Release of inmates – logistics in relation to community
  - Buses transport inmates and kids going to school?
  - Lockdown of schools?
- Why not going vertical – high-rise?
- How does Puetz Golf qualify according to requirements?
  - Flooding, transportation engineering
- Is there a guarantee of jail staying misdemeanor?
- Forum – Northgate community – How are ESL parents notified?

### Table #6

- No industrial, surrounded by residential
- Regional JC is better
- N. Seattle site is too far from downtown, shuttle inmates
- N. Seattle is the smallest site
- Mail theft
- Partnering with other cities – need for larger site – may need more land for increased services to jail
- Traffic
- Increase staff, attorneys, prisoner visitors, supplies
- One bus line – 345 already dangerous bus
- Aurora area already suffers from higher crime rate, area has gotten better, keep going in the right direction
- Northgate Mall shooting
- Puetz does not wish to sell
- Environmental – low area – Puetz flooded last year
- Myers site is the largest site – already owned by the city
- Top 5 factors the city should consider
  - Cost and size of lot
  - Proximity to residential and schools
  - Amount of commercial zoning adjacent
  - Environmental (Puetz in flood zone) and density of building structure
  - Traffic impact
    - Congestion
    - Transportation options out of area
    - Farthest from courts
- Biggest concern about this site
  - Proximity to residential and jails
  - Increased crime

- N. Seattle already suffering from lack of sufficient police
- Congested traffic and increased
- Top 3 things the city could do to address our concerns
  - Consider property owned by city
  - Increase police support
  - Add transportation options
    - Dedicated bus or shuttle to transport released inmates out of area

#### **Table #7**

- Siting jail downtown x 2. consider drainage at Puetz site (flooding)
- Proximity to homes
- Loss of recreational facility
- Transportation costs for inmate transport
- Availability to social services not at N. end site
- Judicial support located downtown
- Proximity to medical (Harborview) better at downtown site or S. end site
- Litigation potential at Puetz site (not willing to sell)
- City already owns/partially owns 2 sites
- High school students riding bus with inmates
- Cost of acquiring the site and adding services
- Top 5 concerns
  - Proximity to homes and schools
  - Cost of acquiring the site and adding social services
  - H.S. students and commuters using same bus as released inmates, 10,000 riders a day
  - Transportation costs to transport inmates to downtown courts, etc.
  - Loss of recreational facility on the north end
  - Lack of infrastructure!
- 3 things to address concerns
  - Site jail downtown
  - Site jail where city already owns property
  - Site jail closer to city services – medical, social, judicial, bondsmen, etc.
- Number 1 biggest concern
  - Proximity to homes and schools

#### **Table #8**

- Factors to consider:
  - More schools near this site and residential housing
  - This neighborhood is not comparable to Kent
  - We already have problems with drugs and prostitution on Aurora and the Greenbelt
  - Jail within the residential area will drive people away from the area
  - The neighborhood has been improving; other sites neighborhoods don't have plans comparable to negate revitalization plan

- With only misdemeanor inmates: many more people moving in and out, only one bus
- Site is barely big enough
- Other costs besides construction costs – transport of prisoners, etc.
- Traffic issues city-wide...
- Why not build further out?
- Mitigation:
  - Release prisoners downtown
  - More bus routes
  - Landscape, medians, etc., etc., on 99
  - Build a u-village like Kent
  - Add more police! Only 3 guys patrol a large area
- Back to concerns:
  - Students use same 358 bus
  - Property values – what do statistics show when a jail goes in?
  - Nothing in our ‘hood looks like RJC in Kent
  - More residential nearby than at other sites
- Mitigation again:
  - City should clarify release process: are there escorts? Game plan?
  - Els prevented Costco from building; city should look at Costco Els
  - What lighting would be needed? Light pollution, it’s up on a hill
  - Greenbelt site is already a big red flag – drugs, etc.

**Table #9**

- City money – why purchase additional site?
- Release into environment that gives access to immediate re-offense
  - Drugs, crime, motels, prostitution
- Limited security police resource, Washelli doesn’t have security
- Puetz is a pillar of community activity. N. Seattle has limited sports activity and recreational centers, family owned and operated, impact QOL and displacing viable community businesses
- Aurora most densely populated
- Residential – most schools impacted
- Impact on 358 bus security – commuter hours
- Neighborhood – area already at tipping point for improvement
- Non-neighborhood friendly business move in bail bonds, etc.
- Traffic impact on already congested road, Aurora
- Closure of Alaskan Way Viaduct
- Stability of the land – flooding
- Haller Lake draining, Salmon
- Prisoner safety – no sidewalks on Aurora
- Residential impact
- Disincentives people from living in city limits neighborhood
- Economic loss, UPS Store, Aurora Village merchants have voiced concern
- Decreased property value

- When people are released between 12 – 4 a.m. where do they go – how do they get home? No 24 hour bus service
- Mitigation
  - Jail service to and from address prisoner – verifiable address or shelter
  - Increased police/security in proportion to jailers/detainees
  - Security on the 358 bus
  - Transportation improvements
  - Major tax break for 10 mile radius to compensate for decreased property value
  - Bicycle police

**Table #10**

- Use site owned by the city – save money
- Fewer social services in our area
- The Puetz site is prone to flooding
- The driving range is a community asset
- If site chosen, we would need:
  - Transportation
  - Transitional housing
  - Increased policing
  - Solve access problems
- Crime baseline study
- Our site has more schools in proximity to Puetz site
- Concern about inmates and school students riding buses
- A negative effect on local businesses
- Our community is already impacted by prostitution and drugs along Aurora corridor

**Table #11**

- High number (7) of schools near N. Seattle site, relative to other sites; Northgate Elem. is a 5 minute walk away (Broadview Elementary/Ingram HS)
- Small industrial/commercial buffer
- Neighborhood safety was not listed among the site selection criteria
- N. Seattle site is farthest from downtown, cost of transportation will be higher than for other sites
- Low income housing is very close to N. Seattle site
- The city has not addressed how future plans to improve N. Aurora will fit with building the jail
- The city's selection process for the four jail sites was not transparent, who decided what fatally flawed means?
- Other potential jail sites were ruled out on the basis of displacement of economic activity. The N. Seattle site is a driving range, which is much loved and used by people on the North end. The driving range is one of very few recreational sites in N. Seattle
- There is a wetland near the N. Seattle site
- A neighborhood with a jail will be stigmatized. The N. Seattle/Aurora neighborhood is already fragile and is an area that the city, WSDOT, and local community councils are working to improve.

- The N. Seattle site is very close to Washelli; cemetery already a magnet for criminal activity
- The N. Seattle site is the smallest site, allowing little room for flexibility in mitigating for parking and access from Aurora

#### **Table #12**

- There is no BEST place, but there is a worst place
- What are the top 5 factors the city should consider?
  - Aurora has highest residential density
  - Most impact on schools (7 schools vs. 5,4,2 for the other 3 sites)
  - Densmore drainage
  - Limited road frontage with respect to access
  - Cost
- What is our biggest concern?
  - Residential impact
- What are the top 3 things the city should consider?
  - Provide us with hard data on the economic impact at various sites
  - Do your homework (work with the eastside)

#### **Table #13**

- Fuel cost (distance from court house) Daily, weekly, monthly, year after year, greenhouse gases
- Medical facilities, Harborview
- Public transportation, 358 – students on buses
- Eminent domain – very costly and lengthy
- Plea bargaining – felons in jail?
- Neighborhood crime! – already a huge issue
- 800 units of senior property – vulnerable (with ½ mile from site)
- Not expandable
- Designated wetland area (legal costs)
- Aurora traffic (bottleneck)
- Evergreen – Washelli Cemetery – vandalism and crime
- Lack of recreational opportunities
- Distance from social programs for inmates – mental illness, homelessness, unemployment
- Site has restricted access
- Smallest site
- Pick the site with the least impact
- Pick a site close to courts
- Pick a site that can be expanded without additional acquisition
- Pick a site with the least population

#### **Table #14**

- No jail near residential areas
- Impact property values
- This is a very densely populated area, seven schools close by
- Put jail downtown or build/expand the Kent RJC
- Social services downtown
- Transport offenders downtown for court dates
- Puetz Golf is a flood zone
- Puetz is a family owned business (60 years)
- Methane buffer zone
- Discourage redevelopment of area
- Against land use code to build anywhere except downtown
- Why weren't community groups invited to present their opposition to the jail?
- How are they weighing the five factors in considering the new jail?
- Huge parking problem
- Don't waste taxpayers money to buy new land when the city already own land to build on
- Build a high rise jail, since it has less environmental impact and doesn't waste space
- Refuse to be held hostage for neighborhood improvements for allowing jail to be built on site

#### **Table #15**

- No because:
  - Site is not big enough (barely large enough for criteria)
  - Residential housing very close
  - Increased crime due to jail release
  - Confirmed wetland and has flooded
  - Is site large enough – both the N. Seattle precinct and the Seattle jail?
  - Property value decrease
  - Already problem with drugs and prostitution – jail would make it worse
  - Farthest away from downtown courthouse
  - Facility is just a jail or does it include courthouse, administration as well?
  - Who do we talk to if Seattle houses other than misdemeanants?
  - What resource would we citizens have if city changes direction for jail use?
  - Increased traffic
  - Bus 358 only public transportation
  - V. high impact to close
  - Court cost/time for eminent domain vs. use site already owned by city
  - Larger acreage if need to allow to expand
  - Nearer to downtown – transportation costs, money, money
  - N. Seattle police precinct needs to relocate – Where? When? With the jail?
  - Will there be increased police officers if jail comes in?
  - Security issue for local businesses and their employers and their customers
  - Bus 358 runs 4 a.m. – midnight, no service midnight – 4 a.m. – released inmates have no public transportation options