



## July 26, 2008 – Municipal Jail Public Forum Comments Submitted via Comment Cards

“To release not into jails quiet neighborhood. To improve law enforcement patrols, more frequent in jail surrounding. For Meyers Way, as it’s bordering K.C. Seattle Police must be able to work in K.C. (White Center). For West Marginal, in case of liquefaction or Tsunami you will have no time to rescue / re-locate inmates, but just open the doors, adding more problems.”

Klaus Ropers  
Highland Park

“There is significant growth in the S. West Seattle area. Has the impact been addressed against current residential population, or projected out 5 / 10 + years.”

Guy Marris  
Highland Park

“Preference – build no more jails. Incarceration is not working. If a facility needs to be built, sites should be balanced across the city, not concentrated in an area. The West Marginal Way site seems a good location.”

Paul Winterstein  
Highland Park

“The South Park Bridge is coming down in 2010, and it has 20,000 vehicles on it everyday. The First Ave Bridge already comes to a crawl. Without the South Park Bridge, transport to and from the jail will take much longer and be very costly.”

Unknown

“What about the Duwamish Archeological Surveys which haven’t been done yet? There could be cultural relics, bones, and so much history which hasn’t been uncovered yet.”

Unknown

“I’m an advocate for a regional solution. There are approximately 39 cities in King County. If we are able to work with the county, we will probably find a couple of things to be true: King County has already sited a jail in Seattle; King County has already sited the Secure Community Transitional Level 3 Offender Housing in South Seattle; land in Seattle is still, on average, more expensive than land in all the 39 cities which make up our county, save for perhaps Mercer Island.”

Unknown

“Seattle should negotiate a deal with King County to expand the RJC or Seattle jail rather than building any new jails. I am opposed to either the city or county building jails until they fix existing problems at the Seattle jail – problems like violations of civil rights, inadequate medical care and outbreaks of infectious disease.”

David Preston  
Delridge Highland Park

“A jail is not a solution for the real problem which is what is driving the need for a jail facility. We need to invest the money from this project to invest in social services and programs that directly address the source of the misdemeanor crimes. We need more mental health services, substance abuse programs, and education programs.”

Unknown  
Highland Park

“Our neighborhood is in transition and putting a jail here will impact and set back that process. We as residents have been working hard to make these changes and improvements happen. Our neighborhood has dealt with disparate and desperate conditions, without significant support and input from the city. The potential of a jail here is unfair, unnecessary, and shameful. The city needs to invest time and resources in improving our neighborhood before they put a jail here.”

Unknown  
Highland Park

“Highland Park and White Center are two neighborhoods trying to improve and get better. If a jail was to be put in, it would not help with the community image and revitalization. How can the city put in a jail in a community trying its very best to improve? A 7-acre jail site worked in Kent and was considered “successful.” First, please define “successful;” second, you are “forcing” a site that worked in Kent into a Seattle neighborhood. It’s comparing apples to oranges. What’s successful in Kent doesn’t mean anything.”

Yilu Shi  
Highland Park

“In the U.S. Department of Justice study, in the “Power Sharing” section: ‘The decision about where to site a new correctional facility is often fought in the political arena. Because power is inequitably distributed, those areas with strong representation in the legislature and those with powerful local interest groups who have access to state decision making can often resist the placement of unwanted facilities within their communities. Legislatures have succumbed to political pressure many times, settling siting debates by refusing to appropriate funds for sites that meet all technical standards but are politically controversial. They typically locate the facility elsewhere. These alternate locations are usually in rural areas or urbanized areas near lower-income neighbors that lack substantial political power. Those with less political power often find they have no role in the decision making process and therefore, little choice in the matter. The result is unhappiness, bitterness, and controversy, as those with less power are forced to accept what others were able to turn away.’ The W. Marginal Way and Meyers Way sites sit at the door step to fragile, low socio-economic neighborhoods. Considering the statement above from the U.S. Department of Justice study, it appears the city’s process is following the status quo in siting the jail. Twenty-nine of the 35 sites were in the south end; the vetting process reducing the 35 to four was done in secret without minutes. How do you respond?”

Linda Davis  
Riverview

“My husband and I strongly oppose the city considering a site location for a city jail in Highland Park. The neighborhood has gone through a significant change for the better and this proposal would detract those improvements. A jail does not belong in a community with schools and residents. The city should continue to find a site for a multistory building in downtown.”

Melissa Saxe  
Highland Park

“Can felony offenses be ‘brought down’ to a misdemeanor offense?’ ‘Confirm’ or ‘challenge’ the low-rise assumption – is environmental cost being considered? Transportation – SDOT future use? Port of Seattle future use? Proximity to wetlands. Low-rise = increased environmental impact. Litigation zone/social justice issues. South Seattle taking the brunt – waste management/recycle station, transfer station, sex offender – SODO, hazardous waste disposal. Gateway to our community/Highland Park psychological impact. Proximity to greenbelt. Uses industrial land for non-industrial use.

Unknown

“The public outreach for this process has been terrible. The only way I found out about this was through an email from a friend in Highland Park, reading the West Seattle Blog, and an email from a representative from Puget Ridge. I received nothing from the City of Seattle.”

Sally MacGregor  
Puget Ridge

“Concerned about release of inmates in neighborhood, no access to other regional areas – need bussing of inmates to central public location with public transportation. Concerned that government is resigned to low-rise solution – believe that high-rise options investigated further. Should be centrally located near courts, infrastructure, etc. Feels that city does not have concerns about lower income communities. Sitings of South Seattle jail goes against zoning of industrial areas. Property values will be impacted yet we still will have to pay same property tax rates as people in Queen Anne, Greenlake, etc. that tax money goes to improvements in those communities, but in this community those taxes will pay to add problems in this community. Will there be increased patrolling in area on greenbelt trails nearby that families use?”

Sally MacGregor  
Puget Ridge

“I live in White Center near White Center Hts. Elementary. I work at Pacific Plumbing Supply Co. at 7500 W Marginal Way. I have been riding my bicycle and walking to work. This whole area has been steadily growing stronger and safer, but it is still fragile and I would hate to lose the ability to walk and ride safely on this route because of my safety concerns.”

Lori Puckett  
Highland Park / White Center

“The only address to my concern: Do not build a new jail. There is a lack of protection in this city for real victims, real criminals are not locked up, sex offenders and child molesters continually are released and re-victimize children. I’m tired of the attack on the poor, paying taxes and the jails are dirty and full of TB and MRSA and can’t be sued for that. If you’re rich you have more equal rights, those should not be the only people who make decisions to make themselves richer, jails make money for who?”

Rachel Jade Claire Harmon  
West Seattle

“How are prisoners handled today? Are they kept downtown until arraignment then transported to Kent? When prisoners are released, today, do they get released at all hours of the day and night? Are they transported to downtown Seattle to be released or do they just walk out the front door into the Kent neighborhood? What assurances do we have that felons will never be housed at this new jail? When will we get answers to the questions that we have posed in the last 2 forums? Just posting the questions on the Internet with no responses really means nothing. How will the city pay for this facility? If your assumptions that a low-rise jail is not what needs to

be built, will you start the process over and consider the previously eliminated sites? Our sales tax is one of the highest in the nation; will funds for this jail come from sales taxes?"

Jessie Cook  
Highland Park

"Add criterion – what will be the impact to the surrounding community and neighborhood plans? There are a lot of issues that still need to be settled before you identify the type of structure you need. 07/08 – Seattle / Eastside cities feasibility study. 07/08 – Complete assessment of low-rise vs. high-rise money assumptions. If you find that you can build a multi-story jail or the Seattle / Eastside – suggest revisit all 35 sites and reanalyze since criteria for sites could change."

Rebecca Chu  
Highland Park

"Don't care for support arena of criminal process, whatever that may include bond people, etc., also would feel upstaged by seeing criminals get a better place to stay than honorable citizen's homes, lowering property values, and home sales not a plus."

Max Motor  
Highland Park

"Build it downtown."

Karin Swendsen  
Admiral / West Seattle

"I realize people in jail need help but not at the risk of our private homes and areas that are easy access for vandals. There is no easy solution for people that have no respect for others!"

Harvey Rowe

"Unincorporated King County is losing money and police manpower and losing many basic services and the close proximity of this jail will only impact this neighborhood negatively."

Unknown

"Poor planning for the future. What about possible expansion for the future, can't we build a jail that can grow. What about 2020 or 2026, will we be doing this again? This site is near the Duwamish Historical Site Dig #1. The city must investigate the historical implications before ever breaking ground."

Unknown

"Flawed criterion – the criteria was done in reverse – a 7-acre facility is not the best idea, but now the study is being done will try to fit into that mold. No real budget – we haven't seen any rough budget yet. \$ 5 million - \$100 million??? What?"

Unknown

"Proper prior planning prevents poor performance."

Unknown

“Why put a jail in one of Seattle’s poorest, most fragile neighborhoods? Why destroy last remnants of greenbelt – wetlands? Why put a jail in an isolated area – away from transportation and other amenities – close to homes and schools. Issue of saving City of Seattle taxpayer money at the expense of our neighborhood. Why not put something that will actually improve the neighborhood?”

Barbara Doskin  
White Center

“The citizens of South Seattle already has Hazardous Waste Facility, a dump, smoke from factories, and we feel that because we are less affluent we end up getting all the negative problems of the city.”

Unknown

“If the city can cooperate with the county, then Seattle will hopefully be able to avoid getting a jail for at least these two reasons: Seattle is already home to a county jail, and that jail is not going anywhere; Seattle was chosen to house the Secure Community Transitional Level 3 Sex Offender Facility for the state.”

Unknown  
South Park

“Seattle should coordinate with King County and other cities to reach a regional solution. Seattle already hosts a jail. Other cities should host a jail, given that Seattle’s jail population is decreasing, rather than increasing. I, in particular, believe the Eastside of Lake Washington should host.”

Bob Anderton  
South Park

“What positive contributions would be included in the plan to improve the community? What improvements will be made in transportation to lessen the impact of increased traffic? Can’t we invest the money in people instead of jails – increase options to help mental health, DUI and DV issues.”

Betsy McConnell Gutierrez  
Puget Ridge

“The regional approach makes the most sense when it comes to a new jail. If, a big if, it is proven that we need a new facility, Seattle should partner with other cities and new facilities should serve the region. It is important to note – for social justice reasons – that Seattle already houses the county facility. When the county needed to site a location for a Secured Correction Transition Facility (SCTF), Seattle was chosen to serve our region’s needs. Our region is bigger than Seattle.”

Kathy Nyland  
Georgetown

“A jail in South Seattle is a slap in the face for the lowest income area in the entire city. You are right, we don’t have the resources to fight you very well, we are busy working two or more jobs, we are not as well connected as our north end neighbors and you are taking advantage of us in the south end.”

Unknown

“What provisions will be made for transportation after an individual is released? For the life of the jail?”

Unknown

“Build it downtown!”

Rick Barrett  
Haller Lake

“I prefer a regional approach, and an emphasis on prevention and support rather than incarceration. If, however, it is determined – after SEPA and EIS especially – that the W. Marginal Way site is needed and best – I do not object. It is in an industrial commercial area, close to highways. I do not believe it is a safety hazard.”

Boots Winterstein  
Highland Park

“No jail in Seattle period. We’re proposing a regional approach. It’s irresponsible for the county to just say you guys are on your own. Like it or not a jail is part of the infrastructure of a region, so like public transportation it should be handled regionally, not in a piecemeal approach. For it to be as efficient as possible it requires everyone working together. No one neighborhood should bear the brunt of the burden. The city leaders tend to approach controversial projects like this from a divide and conquer mentality, pitting neighborhood against neighborhood. They seek short-term solutions for long-term issues. An issue as important and that has as much impact as this needs to be handled decisively not divisively. We’re pleased that Seattle is seeking partnerships with cities to the north and east of us. The county should take the lead in facilitating these partnerships. Seattle already houses the county jail, Seattle already provides sex offender housing for the county, in a truly regional approach we need to remember that the region is bigger than just Seattle.”

Unknown

“No jail. City needs to work harder with King County to figure out a regional issue. City has experience building a multilevel building: city library, city hall, key tower. If in the City of Seattle the city council needs to make it a priority. Changes for the better in Highland Park: before there were drugs and shootings, 3 to 15 years, more young families moving in, Riverview Park (softball, children), more homeowners coming, rental properties. The jail is too close to schools, property values will go down, for sale house signs are popping up along Holden Street. No Jail!”

Unknown

“Social and economic justice issues – 29 of 35 sites in South Seattle. West Crest Greenbelt – money to improve the parks and encourage us to use sites. No transportation, viaduct, 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, lack of buses. Jail culture that comes with a jail, take this into account. Proximity to population of jail – north/eastside cities; Seattle only, money for gas for transportation, money for site access for viaduct, courts, etc. Consistency with overarching city policies and neighborhood plan: removing viaduct, Duwamish neighborhood plan, trying to change and mix residential industrial use, money to our parks, conserving habitat and green space, wetland regulations, densification (7 acres of city space?). Revisit the 35 sites.”

Unknown

“Negotiate with King County to continue – why? 2012 need a jail. Industrial – big area. Fatally flawed? 1349 more beds collective? 445 beds in 2026. Who owns the North Seattle sites?”

Unknown

“What is your opinion on the state closing buildings in our area to build jails, and lose their properties, instead of closing buildings downtown and build jails? People are going to be irritated due to the jails taken their eye views of Mother Nature.”

Unknown

“The South Park Bridge is coming down in 2010, and the \$150 million needed to rebuild it is not available. The transit to and from the jail using only the 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Bridge is totally inadequate for jail transportation. The city is still in a lawsuit over the joint training facility – the wetlands haven’t gone away completely yet!”

Unknown

“The public outreach program is flawed and ineffective. Conduct a real outreach campaign. Mitigation: prior to making a decision elicit a 60% response from community with representation of culture and diversity. Political decisions are about people. That is the weight of transportation, the environmental, community stigma, public safety, balance to preserve “greenbelt.” Mitigate: economic cost of land, availability of land, preservation of open space. Models: alternative “models” for acres (build downtown), all sites are within one mile from schools, relocate public health building to S.E. to keep jail close to the challenges of the urban dense population, compromise model with alternative that would increase possibilities, evaluate community trends and changes, current trends to improve community (how will siting a jail reverse those trends), mitigate: if premise is that jail is already here at 7-acres, build public education / environment education that is twice the jail acres devoted to improving the community. Develop a political process that: includes voting, democratic vote, not closed city council decision, regional solution. Professional negotiations: accountability, transparency, community members, plot recommendations from non-invested experts, quantifiable. Long-term solutions: impacts that benefit continued generations. Is there a voting / democratic decision process in which to contest these decisions? Size met requirements for one model definition for fatally flawed. Key factors resulting in elimination: no social impact assessment, pure economic, infrastructure, access. Political decisions are about people. What types of negotiation processes were employed? – What will it take to go back? Zoning commercial / industrial, acres, skewed analysis, acquisition cost, site development issues, compatibility with surrounding areas, public transport, process flawed, what effort? Why city council decision incongruent with “green city polices” Why not vote? Rhetoric about limitations on acres based on one model, matched to rhetoric that Seattle is a densely population space so there are limitations. Why not limit the models? What weight will “comments” have? “Policy makers” for community impact – what can we mitigate? – ask for the moon! Use high-rise, evaluation should include social impact. Model jail facility 14000 to 400 Kent RJC – what was the Kent planning process? Why was downtown not considered? Skewed to the south end by land. Keep jail out of Seattle. Keep the jail downtown. Reconsider high-rise / mid-rise. Relocate public administrative offices that bring community resources to the community. Leave the jail downtown. Decision process now and final: political decision public vote, in city, out of city, alternative too? Factors? Concerns? Address concerns. False premise, bad planning. If you don’t have time to do it right the first time, when will you have time to do it once? Environmental: wetland, protection or watershed, yellow vs. open; Mitigate: preserve grow green areas in other locations 2x%”

Unknown