



July 26, 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

- No community members at table

Table #2

- The minority community is not present again. What specifically has been done to outreach to those communities?
- Some benefits to a regional facility being put downtown:
 - Court infrastructure is nearby
 - Centrally located to other cities
 - Located where the majority of crimes take place
 - Get patrol officers back to their patrols
 - Public defenders don't have to travel, families are better able to get to the jail – transportation is more easily obtained
 - Downtown site is away from residential areas when sited in the financial district
- RJC – inmates are internalized, court system is there
- What about a mid-rise option – less land would be required
- If it takes six years to site and build a jail – we have only four and a half. What will happen after 2012 when the new jail has not been completed? There is a one and a half year window not accounted for. Where will misdemeanants be put?

Table #3

- No jail in ~~West~~ Seattle:
 - We say no jail in Seattle, period!
- Regional approach:
 - Rather than pitting neighborhood versus neighborhood
 - Continue exploring partnership with cities north and east of us
- Facts:
 - No matter where a new facility is sited, Seattle will still house a county jail, that's not going anywhere
 - In 2003, when the county needed to site a location for the SCTF, Seattle was chosen to serve the region's needs
- Our region is bigger than Seattle

Table #4

- Downtown
- Too close to school
- Crimes – do not add more crimes to neighborhood in White Center
- Jail in neighborhood means more crimes
- Look at geographic, be fair to everyone else
- Two locations in the south

Table #5

- Factors:
 - Impact on safety of the neighborhood, especially the release process
 - Impact on traffic and communities, especially bike community to 1st Ave So. Bridge
 - Environmental impact, especially the cost and impact of transporting prisoners (does the comparison to a downtown site include this?)
 - Access to the woods in case of escape – potential of escape from this site
- Concerns
 - Releasing prisoners directly into the neighborhood. Could there be a drop-off downtown or to a major transit center?
 - The 1st Ave So. Bridge entrance on highland already unsafe (traffic upkeep) made worse
 - Impact on property values – taxes increase, values down
 - Visitors to the jail – impact on traffic and safety
- Ways to address
 - Increased law enforcement in the surrounding area
 - Integrated work in homeless shelters
 - Requiring morning release
 - Site in a non-residential, open area
 - Transportation downtown, easy access to
 - Clear new bike lanes around facility – particularly W. Marg.
 - Riker’s Island style barge, we have a lot of water
 - Could Greg Nickels and Ron Sims talk? Why was this dumped on us with less than 5 years notice?

Table #6

- We should wait for the study before looking to the RJC so soon
- Waste of taxpayer dollars
- Will the study confirm or challenge the low-rise assumption?
- 3rd and Cherry is ready to go
- Environmental impact of low-rise vs. high-rise
- Does your study look at environmental costs as well as construction costs?
- What will the release time of inmates be and what transportation will be available for the life of the jail?
- Jail’s proximity to senior housing
- What kind of guarantee can we have that this will stay a misdemeanor’s facility?
- How can you “buy down” or “plea down” a sentence from a felony to a misdemeanor?

- There is a large greenbelt which people have been working hard to create which will be an uninviting place to hike with a jail. Nature Consortium has been working hard
- The sites are liquefaction and wetland sites
- Earthquake would cause trapping of inmates
- Using industrial land for non-industrial uses doesn't agree with the mayor's priorities
- Social justice perspective – these local areas are fragile. White Center and South Park have zones where known offenders are not allowed to be
- Would need increased law enforcement for the life of the jail
- A collaboration between K.C. and Seattle would be good for the region
- Seattle already houses one of the 2 King County jail facilities and that is not leaving
- Psychological impact to Highland Park since jail location is a gateway to community
- Using these sites in a crowded city take away future use possibilities for the land, i.e. grocery store
- Land in Seattle is the most expensive of the city
- Seattle, South Seattle in particular, already houses the Secure Community Transitional Level 3 Sex Offender Facility for the State of Washington
- South Seattle already has a transfer station, poorest air quality in the state, hazardous waste facility, level 3 sex offender housing, LaFarge Cement Co., 5 or more Superfund sites, a heavily used international airport
- Cultural, historic significance of Duwamish site is unknown (Duwamish Indian Tribe)
- If the city is trying to spread out the sites throughout the city, why is there two in one area, and why were over 90% of the initial sites proposed in the south end?
- Kent already had infrastructure, and placing a jail there worked well within the area. Both south end sites have no infrastructure, and this is a serious problem for our areas
- What kind of outreach did the city do to invite people to today's meeting? Mailings?
- Impact on transportation: draw bridges, viaduct, etc.

Table #7

- Flawed planning process
- No real budget
- Poor planning for the future
- Comparisons to the RJC
- Possible Duwamish historic site
- Impact on unincorporated King County – White Center

Table #8

- Both sites will have negative impact to Duwamish Watershed
- Do not use industrially zoned property for this non-industrial use, as it will impact manufacturing job creation
- Impact on wildlife particularly ground-nesting birds and macro-invertebrates
- This will negatively impact Hamm Creek storm water quality
- Myers Way and Highland Park Way sites will turn adjacent neighborhoods in to one huge ghetto
- This is not an essential use

- This will destroy diversity, habitat, of last remnant of historical Duwamish River watershed
- This will decrease efficiency of public defenders and thus cost tax-payer money
- Put jail downtown as per Seattle land use code and Growth Management Plan
- How much will this cost?
- How will the city pay for it?
- These sites will negatively impact freight traffic especially when South Park Bridge and Alaskan Way Viaducts are torn down
- Transport from north and eastside cities is most difficult to both south end sites
- Both sites are next to residential areas and green spaces and far away from support and services
- There is no infrastructure such as courts at either site
- Hamm Creek runs through Myers Way and historically Highland Park Way sites
- Construction of a jail will limit ability to restore Hamm Creek
- Public outreach is flawed, no first generation people are represented
- Downtown will have better public transportation access including light rail
- Expand Kent facility or put jail downtown
- Either south end site will undo progress made in making adjacent neighborhoods more economically diverse

Table #9

- Building a jail doesn't solve the problem
 - There are more innovative options to mitigate the need for a jail
 - Money from 3 cities – grassroots, social services (mental health, etc.)
 - Speaks to a need for cultural change = education, social services
 - Services for youth, families, communities
- Creating a sense of community
 - Q: Where are people being released?
 - Q: What are the services that are available for visitors, people being released?
- Environmental impacts are a concern that need to be addressed

Table #10

- No community members at table

Table #11

- No community members at table

Table #12

- What criteria were used to narrow to 4 sites? Was it quantified? Is it public? If not, why not?
- The city stated they want the selection process as transparent as possible, how come the neighborhood was not notified when the original 35 sites were considered? And how did 35 go to 4 without any public notification?
- The speaker talked about making this an “open and transparent process,” yet what have you done to inform the public and various demographic groups? Such as mailers to residences, info flyers with public utility bills – there are people at this meeting who only found out because of the Highland Park Association signs! What has been done to reach people who speak other languages?

Table #13

- Social justice – 29 of original 35 sites in South Seattle – we have lots of Seattle’s “undesirable necessities” – we pay taxes too! Share the burden!
- Jail brings jail culture
 - Bail bondsmen, pawn shops, etc.
 - Are you considering this impact on our neighborhood?
 - Psychological impact
 - No consideration criterion for impact on neighborhood and our community
- Consistency with overarching policies
 - Densification – 7-acres?
 - Money to Duwamish greenbelt, but who wants to walk through “Camp West Crest?”
 - Environmental – conserve green space, preserve habitat, wetlands – jails?
 - Low-income senior housing
 - Neighborhood plans
- Proximity to jail population
 - Viaduct going down
 - 14th Ave Bridge
 - Last time noted most misdemeanor
 - Outside South Seattle – add north and eastside cities – our sites are not centrally located
 - Access to court
- Concerns
 - Assurance that there will never be felons in this jail – now misdemeanor; tomorrow??
 - Economic incentive – jails can be a for profit industry – will city weigh economic incentive over neighborhood concerns?
- Top 5 factors
 - Are there economic incentives to site the jail in Seattle?
 - Along with a jail, there’s a culture that comes along with it, i.e. bail bonds, pawn shops, is the city taking this into account?
 - Transportation and time away from pursuing crime and lack of (buses) park and ride opportunity
 - Viaduct and 14th St. Bridge

- Social justice – stigma
- Improvement to the neighborhood, i.e. new development homes/town homes, low income senior housing
- Parks – West Crest – walking trail and greenbelt

Table #14

- When and where will they be released?
- Last 7-15 years neighborhood has improved and changed for the better
- Why is city only taking steps now? Why aren't they working harder with King County similar to the library system?
- K.C. needs to fix and address existing issues before siting a new one, i.e. suicide, violation of civil rights, lack and adequate medical care
- Economic reasons
 - It's not fair they label industrial site zoning – but it's at the end of an industrial site that borders a residential zone
 - City needs to work harder to build a multilevel building in downtown or SODO
 - House – homeowners now to renters
 - Property values going down
 - Property tax breaks? If you live closer to radius of the location
 - Increased police patrol and presence
 - Increase park lighting at Riverview jail site
 - May or will make a deal breaker, may make homeowner sale and leave area
 - Supervise police and security presence at parks and neighborhoods

Table #15

- Low-rise or high-rise?
- Cost?
- Safety
 - Releasing people into community
 - Busing people into community
 - Does time of day really matter?
- Greenbelt – my house is right in it
- Perception of neighborhood – property values going down
- Keeping police present
- Impact on commercial districts
 - Good or bad?
 - No option to build more commercial around the shipping and industrial areas
- People don't want to live near a jail! (or buy houses)
- We're feeling like our area is sort of a dumping ground
- What does “fatally flawed” mean?
- Is there a focus on incorporating existing businesses into the needs of the jail?
- We need a new bridge – 1st Ave is a problem – especially with more traffic
 - Would we really save money with the other impacts that this location will cause or have?
- In terms of government services in the SW Seattle community, we have the airport, the port, a garbage dump, already. Is this proportionate to other areas?