



## July 26, 2008 – Municipal Jail Public Forum Caucus Discussion Questions

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

- Proximity to greenbelt, wetlands, schools, play areas, transportation
- Future use and potential of the site
- Social justice: too far from downtown, liquefaction zone
- Environmental impact of low-rise jail vs. high-rise jail
- Economic discrimination in choosing sites (most in South Seattle)
- Negative impact on property values
- Proximity to parks and other local family attractions
- Stigma, negative image attached to our neighborhood if jails are built
- Go downtown or to the RJC in Kent
- Downtown
- Transportation – viaduct
- High-rise – use less acres – open up sites
- Use as overflow later felons
- Influence of others in area – friends fatally flawed
- City funding
  - A funding of all of these other initiatives to improve the neighborhoods
  - Walking trail from W. Marginal to SSCC
  - Duwamish plan
  - Development / townhouse
  - Low-income senior housing
  - Densification
- Transportation
- Proximity of the population to the jail
- Transportation – site access in relation to future traffic changes – take down soon
- Security issues – proximity to port and known security issues (homeland security)
- When will you secure permits and land use changes in this process – it seems like a waste of taxpayers money if you choose a site and do not secure permits for land use changes first
- Social justice – 29 of the original 35 sites were in South Seattle
- Does it need to be 7-acres or a one story building?
- Not clear why 7-acres, though 5.5-acres was the max recommended
- Re-open consideration of the high-rise option
- Grotechnical concerns/ / flooding? W. Marginal Way site is liquefaction zone – looks like we might be in a flood plain of the Duwamish River
- Tribal concerns – Duwamish and NHPA – disturbance of tribal archeological materials
- Release time and transportation of prisoners out of the area
- Safety
- Fairness to neighborhoods and communities
- Jail culture surrounding, public defenders, bondsmen
- West Crest Park as camping area greenbelt camping
- Economic discrimination in Highland Park
- Fragile area of SW Seattle
- Begging in my neighborhood

- Crime increase
- Traffic
- Property value
- Economics out weigh crime culture
- Not in a family residential area
- Not near schools for children
- Not on a bus line with few buses per hour
- Family homes allow too many hiding places and private access for vandals
- I have had a problem with “drifters” living in parked cars for days at a time
- Social justices
- Economy and costs
- Need – not reactionary but true need
- Alternatives – programs other than jailing
- It’s important to note that with or without a new city jail, Seattle will still house the county jail, and a few years back when the county needed to site a location for the SCTF, South Seattle was chosen
- Cost
- Social justice issues
- Deal with the cause not the symptom

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

- Gateway to Highland Park – psychological impact
- Profound, negative impact on our South and West Seattle neighborhoods
- Changing our negative image and changing our area – business wise
- What is the city doing for the citizens?
- Assurance that there is never a felon in this jail? What happens as the population grows?
- Meyers Way site will be close to new senior housing
- It should be downtown, not near a neighborhood
- Release them downtown
- Bike commuting – pedestrian commuting
- Surrounding jail culture
- Crime breeds crime
- Not in West Seattle, but especially not in Highland Park where I live, I have had four building break-ins in the last year and a car that has was stripped of it’s interior seats, battery, and parts
- It means the city is not taking a regional approach

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

- Consider mid to high-rise options
- Don’t use industrial lands for non-industrial uses
- Pick another place – it’s obvious that South and West Seattle are being discriminated against, as usual, my home and neighborhood are as important to me as any person in North Seattle and other wealthier neighborhoods
- Why does the county want out?
- Reduced property value

- Improvements to area to accommodate people “moving about”
- Work harder to focus on King County agreement
- Scrap the low-rise – build a low-rise downtown facility
- County solution for problem
- Not a Seattle jail
- Tearing down of viaduct
- Tearing down South Park Bridge
- Put the jail in a tall building with no access from outside, only guarded entrances by police, also in a busy area where many people can see vandals at work
- It’s misleading to say that the city needs a jail – a regional approach is the right direction to take
- Does it have to go somewhere?