



**City of Seattle**  
**Municipal Jail Public Forums Format**  
July 1, 2008

Anticipating a large turnout for four public forums to be held in June and July, and wanting to make sure everyone could participate in the discussion and have their comments heard, the City of Seattle has adopted a caucus format for these public forums. This includes the opportunity for both written feedback and recorded spoken comments. This format also has the benefit of encouraging people to interact with each other. The attendees at the first forum were very engaged in this portion of the meeting, and we believe it gave people who otherwise might not have spoken a chance to interact. We expect this positive result in the remaining forums.

In the first forum on June 26, we collected thoughtful written feedback from the caucus discussions as recorded on the flip charts and caucus discussion question sheets, and from comment cards. The report-out portion of the forum gave the City and the attendees an opportunity to hear comments from each of the caucus groups. The City will post written forum feedback, along with video of each entire forum, on the Seattle Municipal Jail Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/municipaljail/outreach.htm>

We are looking at possible ways to strengthen our format and agenda based on the first forum, and may make some slight adjustments. The amount of input we collected at the first forum was extensive – much greater than what we could have gathered in a traditional hearing format, where people sign in to speak at a microphone, one at a time. Due to the large groups the City anticipates at each forum, we will continue the caucus format, allowing the greatest number of people possible to provide input.