

**Comments received via <http://www.seattle.gov/municipaljail/questions.htm>
for July 28, 2008**

Name: Mary Whitley

City: Seattle

Neighborhood: Highland Park

I have been a resident of Highland Park since 1985. It has been heartening to observe the slow but steady improvements that have occurred in this neighborhood over the years. And now, just as the revitalization project at the former Park Lake projects is close to completion, the government is planning to locate a jail in this neighborhood.

As other members of the community have stated, this neighborhood has probably been selected due to the high poverty level and the "diversity" that the government might equate with a lack of involvement of the community that call Highland Park home. That is the major outrage of this plan, as how can this neighborhood truly revive with a jail at its gateway?

Why select a high risk neighborhood, or any neighborhood for a jail site? Are there any other jails located in noncommercial neighborhoods? I can't think of one in this area. Also, where will the prisoners and their friends/relatives access pawn shops and bail bondsmen? That would bring on an additional blight on the neighborhood, as these peripheral businesses are built.

This jail needs to be located in the industrial area of Seattle, where there are no neighborhoods to be negatively impacted, where there is adequate bus service and parking, and where the green belts will not be destroyed to accommodate this site.

Please consider the logic of this. Do not destroy Highland Park's reputation as a good, affordable neighborhood for young families.

Name: Regan Hurley

City: Seattle

Neighborhood: N/A

Is this the highest and best use for that land? There is just beginning to be a nice retail or commercial zone in that area i.e., whole foods, etc...that will likely attract a lot of other retail and commercial tenants and developments? If that's the case, seems a jail would be counter productive to that effort. Retail and commercial businesses create tax revenues for the city. This is a high traffic corridor that could attract a lot of tenants and shoppers thereby increasing tax revenue. Seems whole foods, etc is a step forward and the jail is a major step backward. This is also a fairly dense neighborhood with a lot of families close by. Not a great place for a jail now, nor any future expansion that may be necessary.