

Comments received via <http://www.seattle.gov/municipaljail/questions.htm>  
on May 21, 2008

Name: Kay Kirkpatrick

Neighborhood: Highland Park

I believe that transportation and access are critical points that need to be included in the basic planning process-especially keeping in mind growth in traffic patterns and access during emergencies such as the next big earthquake. Since W. Seattle area has traditionally had less development than other parts of the city, we have absorbed a higher increase in the amount of development Seattle is now going through-look at the huge backups on 99 and the W.Seattle highbridge and think what traffic looked like 10 years ago. This WILL continue to get worse. Especially without any transit planning directed to this sector. Also remember that full on Viaduct replacement/removal starts shortly (around the time this new jail needs to be on line). This facility will be part of the upcoming mess. What about the access to courts and hospitals recommended in professional literature on jail siting? I don't think the west side of the Duwamish is a wise placement with these issues in mind.

Name: Kay Kirkpatrick

Neighborhood: Highland Park

At a community meeting I attended it was noted that about 30% of the inmates being released are homeless, with no residence to go back to-the recently acquired greenbelt along the Duwamish will be an enticing camping/hideout spot for these poor folks, from which they can easily forage through local homes and playfield restrooms, etc. How would this be mitigated?

Name: Sarah Taylor

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I am writing to urge you to NOT put a jail on Aurora. I think it is a very poor choice due to its proximity to many homes, apartments, and schools, and it is far away from the courts. Our neighborhood already has to deal with crime on Aurora! It makes no sense to me that the city would spend money on a plan to improve the Aurora corridor and then stick a jail in an area that already struggles with urban crime. We have worked with GAIN to make our neighborhood a better place; please don't counter act all our hard work by adding a jail to our problems.

Name: Kara Kahler

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I am a mother of three kids under 3 years old and am upset at the aurora jail proposal at 117th. I am concerned about the safety of my neighborhood as my kids grow up. Please keep it closer to the downtown corador and not near so many families and schools.

Name: Jessica White

Neighborhood: Green Lake

I am writing in opposition to the siting of a jail at Aurora Avenue N and N 117th Street. I live near Aurora in an area supported by Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors (GAIN). Our neighborhood has been working HARD to reduce crime and the image that has haunted the area for years. This is a VERY important tipping point for Aurora!! This turnaround happened through community involvement and support of the police and City. PEOPLE CARE ABOUT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THIS AREA!! Aurora needs continued support, not additional risks. I recognize the need for the city to find a site for a municipal jail. I do not, however, agree that this site meets reasonable criteria for a safe and efficient jail location. Please choose a site that is further from residential areas and schools, closer to the downtown courthouse and less vulnerable to crime.

Name: Cheryl Pomp King

Neighborhood: Green Lake

Please choose a site that is further from residential areas and schools, closer to the downtown courthouse and less vulnerable to crime.

Name: Laurel Redenbaugh

Neighborhood: Broadview/Bitter Lake

I am writing in opposition to the siting of a jail at Aurora Avenue N and N 117th Street. My family lives near Aurora in Broadview. I am concerned that a jail may be placed in this area near homes and schools. My family has already moved once to get away from a higher crime area. We do not want our daughter to witness crime near/at her home like her father and I did at our old home. I recognize the need for the city to find a site for a municipal jail. I do not, however, agree that this site meets reasonable criteria for a safe and efficient jail location. Of the four sites mentioned it is the only site near schools, homes, a library, and parks. Please choose a site that is further from residential areas, schools, and libraries.

Name: Tricia Schalekamp

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I am writing in opposition to the siting of a jail at Aurora Avenue N and N 117th Street. I live near Aurora in an area supported by Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors (GAIN). Our neighborhood has been working hard to reduce crime. Our neighbourhood has improved so much over the last few years and is continuing to do so, especially with the increase in younger families moving in to the new townhouses. Our area is full of families, schools, and parks. A jail has no part of this neighbourhood. We cannot have inmates leaving the jail and hanging around our neighbourhood. This will not attract more people to the neighbourhood, will increase the people who decide to move out, is dangerous to our children and isn't good for new businesses to come into our neighbourhood. This will without a doubt increase the already crime that goes on. We do not want this in our neighbourhood.

Name: Philip Smith

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I am writing in opposition to the siting of a jail at Aurora Avenue N and N 117th Street. I do not agree that this site meets reasonable criteria for a safe and efficient jail location. Please choose a site that is further from residential areas and schools, closer to the downtown courthouse and less vulnerable to crime.

Name: Elfriede Monroe

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

Aurora Ave N is not the place to put the jail. This is primarily a residential neighborhood and we have been struggling to keep down crime. This jail is too far away from the court house. It would be detrimental to this area.

Name: Stacey Gamble

Neighborhood: Licton Springs

I am writing in opposition to the siting of a jail at Aurora Avenue N and N 117th Street. I live near Aurora in an area supported by Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors (GAIN). Our neighborhood has been working hard to reduce crime. Aurora is at a turning point. Until recently the area north of 85th Street was always on the top 10 list for 911 drug calls. The police reported to us in November 2006 that we dropped off that list completely, and have remained off for most of this time. We believe this turnaround happened through community involvement and support of the police and City. Aurora needs continued support, not additional risks. Please note, the Aurora site is the only site immediately adjacent to residences and has the greatest number of schools within one mile. Please consider removing Aurora from the list of possible jail sites.

Name: Garrett Heitman

Neighborhood: Green Lake

With the influx of 30 somethings into the neighborhood and babies on the way in many households a Jail near our neighborhood would be a motivating factor to move out of SEattle. Its a beautiful place to live but having a jail near my home and raising a child would make me look at other options.

Name: David Weber

Neighborhood: Highland Park

The proposed Highland Park Way Southwest & West Marginal Way site is incompatible with the City's jail siting criteria upon which the City has purportedly followed. This proposed site is approximately 1 mile from schools and single family residences. The proposed site has poor site access; lacks sufficient public transportation; is incompatible with surrounding uses; and, will have significant site development and operational issues before and during the viaduct construction/rebuild. I strongly urge the City to reconsider this proposed site.

Name: Heather Wheeler

Neighborhood: Green Lake

I have many concerns about the potential jail site on Aurora Ave. The selection process described states that the potential sites that were chosen are removed from residential areas. The site at Aurora is, in fact, the only proposed site that is IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO A RESIDENTIAL AREA. This is an area that is growing rapidly and many new houses are going up. I live in one of these areas, and the city and the community have already spent considerable time, money, and effort to improve the crime rate in the area. Even though the crime rate has dropped significantly, I have seen drug deals and homeless squatters literally ON MY DOORSTEP multiple times within the past year. A high-turnover jail would only magnify this problem. It is also the site with THE GREATEST NUMBER OF K-12 SCHOOLS WITHIN ONE MILE. There are seven of them. There are THREE SEATTLE PARKS FACILITIES

WITHIN ONE MILE of the Aurora site. The 358 bus route down Aurora is already A HIGH CRIME BUS ROUTES

Name: John Bitting

Neighborhood: Licton Springs

Now that we've got our street all cleaned up of pimps, hookers, dope addicts, and drug dealers, we do NOT need a jail in the neighborhood so all these folks can come back to our street when they are released. It's strenuous enough putting up with the derelicts in the Way West and Green Lake Motels as it is. Nearby the Aurora location is Home Depot, Albertsons, Sam's Club, Starbucks, Enterprise, Ivar's, Krispy Creme, and a host of other family-oriented businesses. Do you really want THIS area to become the epicenter of criminal confinement? Please stick your jail in the overwhelmingly industrial West Marginal site or up your ass, but not in our rapidly improving neighborhood. Thank you.

Name: Kara Hamilton

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I am writing in opposition to the siting of a jail at Aurora Avenue N and N 117th Street. Aurora is at a turning point. Until recently the area north of 85th Street was always on the top 10 list for 911 drug calls. The police reported to us in November 2006 that we dropped off that list completely, and have remained off for most of this time. We believe this turnaround happened through community involvement and support of the police and City. Aurora needs continued support, not additional risks. I recognize the need for the city to find a site for a municipal jail. I do not, however, agree that this site meets reasonable criteria for a safe and efficient jail location. Please choose a site that is further from residential areas and schools, closer to the downtown courthouse and less vulnerable to crime.

Name: Tina Mollis

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I am quite concerned about the possibility of building a jail on Aurora Ave. I was one of the founding members of GAIN (Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors) which has worked closely with the police department and city officials for many years now. We started this organization as a crime prevention and neighborhood awareness group because many of us were experiencing unlawful activities in front of our homes (muggings, prostitution, drug dealings, etc.). We have made great strides and do not want a jail in our neighborhood. There are many schools, parks, residences in the vicinity. We already have a number of registered pedophiles who live in the motels on Aurora near 85th. Please do not put a jail as well. We DO NOT want a jail in this area. This would be a major setback and a danger to those of us who live here.

Name: Angel Hackman

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I am writing to oppose the recommendation to build a new jail site on Aurora (at Aurora and 117th). The Aurora corridor is currently undergoing desperately needed improvements to ensure safety and promote vitality of the neighborhood and businesses, which would be undermined by introducing a facility of this nature. This area has also seen a substantial influx of families with children that would not benefit from being in close proximity to a facility like this. Though we know building a new facility is needed and inevitable, the Aurora site should not be considered.

Name: Margaret Rinaldi

Neighborhood: Green Lake

The Aurora site is the only site immediately adjacent to residences - single family homes, senior housing, condos and low-income housing including homes with children. Out of the four sites, it has the greatest number of schools within one mile. It is also the furthest site from the downtown courthouse.

Name: Bonny Wyatt

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I live near Aurora (for 19 years) in an area supported by GAIN. Our neighborhood has been working hard to reduce crime. With the proposed jail site, approx 20-40 inmates could be released everyday. I do not agree that this site meets reasonable criteria for a safe jail location. - It is the only one with immediately adjacent single family homes, senior housing, condos and multi-family housing. These homes would have no buffer between themselves and a jail. - It is the site with the greatest number of K-12 schools within one mile: Ingraham High School, Broadview Thompson K-8, Northgate Elementary, Christ the King Elementary, Haller Lake Children's Center, Living Wisdom School, Northgate Christian Academy. - The 358 bus-line is already known as one of the higher crime routes.

Please choose a site that is further from residential areas and schools, closer to the downtown courthouse and less vulnerable to crime.

Name: Denise Hess

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

If jails are needed I don't feel that it is my right over others to have it NOT in my neighborhood. So my comment is I am fine with a Jail.

Name: Jennifer St. Cyr

Neighborhood: Green Lake

I am writing in opposition to a jail at Aurora Avenue N and N 117th Street. Of the four sites mentioned:

- It is the only one with immediately adjacent residences. These homes would have no buffer between themselves and a jail. - It is the furthest site from the downtown courthouse. - It is the site with the greatest number of K-12 schools within one mile - 7 schools in all.

- it is located within the Bitterlake Hub Urban Village.- There are three Seattle Parks facilities within one mile. - Aurora has been vulnerable to high levels of crime. Locating a jail with the potential flow of 20-40 inmates daily on our vulnerable streets threatens the community. - The 358 bus-line is already known as one of the higher crime routes. Please choose a site that is further from residential areas and schools, closer to the downtown courthouse and less vulnerable to crime.

Name: Rita Connaughton

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

The proposed jail site at Aurora Avenue/N.117th Street is not a wise decision. There are several schools within a mile of that location, both Public and Private. This area north of Woodland Park is already significantly impacted by drugs, prostitution, car theft and burglary. The citizens in

the neighborhood have worked very hard to change the scenery and our image. We have made a concerted effort to work with the city to assist in the cleanup etc. Please support our efforts by helping us to continue to renew this area and make it an even better place to bring young families. Greenwood should be more than a drive through to the suburbs..... The city of Shoreline along Aurora Avenue already puts us to shame. Why can't we match their investment in their community. Please don't put the last nail in the coffin and bury Greenwood.

Name: Amy Turner

Neighborhood: Greenwood/Phinney Ridge

I am writing in opposition to the siting of a jail at Aurora Avenue N and N 117th Street. I live near Aurora in an area supported by Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors (GAIN). Our neighborhood has been working hard to reduce crime. Aurora is at a turning point and needs continued support, not additional risks. I recognize the need to find a site for a municipal jail. I do not, however, agree that this site meets reasonable criteria for a safe and efficient jail location. Of the four sites mentioned: - It is the only one with immediately adjacent residences. These homes would have no buffer between themselves and a jail. - It is the furthest site from the downtown courthouse. - It is the site with the greatest number of K-12 schools within one mile. - There are three Seattle Parks facilities within one mile. Please choose a site that is further from residential areas and schools, closer to the downtown courthouse and less vulnerable to crime.