

Comments received via <http://www.seattle.gov/municipal/jail/questions.htm>
on June 18, 2008

Name: Becca Fong

Neighborhood: Highland Park

Where is the Race and Social Justice when TWO potential jail sites were chosen in the Highland Park neighborhood? One of the Mayor's Race and Social Justice priorities is to "Build Strong Families and Healthy Communities". Here is the text verbatim from the Mayor's Office website: "Healthy Communities are the heart of a great city. Every part of this city is unique and vital to our growth and our ability to sustain what we love about living and working here. Our diverse cultures bring life, vitality and economic growth to Seattle. As Mayor, I want to foster a renewed commitment to our neighborhoods. That means paying attention to the needs of each community and responding to those needs in a meaningful way."

Proposing TWO potential jail sites in our neighborhood is not "fostering a commitment to our neighborhood" or "...paying attention to the needs of each community and responding to those needs in a meaningful way." It is a situation we are faced with often when it comes to working with our City's government. It is great press and public relations to say that all of your neighborhoods are a priority and their best interests are at heart, but it's quite another matter to walk the talk. This is an opportunity. Provide us with specific and detailed information about site selection, make this process transparent, LISTEN to what we have to say. I feel that Seattle is a city that pretends to be progressive and interested in social equity. Prove me wrong. I encourage you to reconsider your choices. You may have been able to put unwanted things in our neighborhoods in the past without too much fuss, but We're NOT going to let it happen anymore.