

Comments received via <http://www.seattle.gov/municipaljail/questions.htm>  
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Neighborhood: Highland Park

In lieu of putting a jail near any neighborhood, the jail should be added as a component to the proposed "Civic Center" at the site of the old Public Safety Building at 4th and Cherry.

Forms Follows Function- perhaps adding a jail to the program will fix the questions the Design Review Board and the City Council have expressed concerning the proposed boring facades.

Currently, the only "function" of concern seems to be sustainability (perhaps because offices are so inherently boring), throwing a jail into the program for the building might just be the missing link that can add considerable interest to the building from a design standpoint. Creating more of a design problem or challenge often times results in much more interesting architecture. Green City- perhaps by adding the jail to this building's program, Seattle can brag about being the first city in the nation to build a sustainable jail, even a LEED Platinum jail- incorporating the jail into this proposed LEED certified building would make it easier for the city to have a LEED certified jail as the systems are already part of the building's infrastructure. Building a stand alone building that is LEED certified could be cost prohibitive, but by combining forces, it makes it much more attainable. This urban site offers multiple opportunities for a sustainably designed jail, as building a jail within a city block instead of as a low rise building

CONSIDERABLY cuts down on: stormwater management (especially with the proposed underground parking, less pavement, less roof surfaces), heat island effects (less pavement and roof surfaces), light pollution (smaller, more compact site), habitat disturbance (city block/urban projects leave proposed green sites undisturbed), water use for landscape (smaller more compact urban site means less landscape mitigation for proposed neighborhood sites, which results not only in reduced water use, but also in reduced design and construction costs), transportation impacts: great proximity to public transportation, parking, alternative transportation, bicycle routes and storage capacity, proximity to City Hall, Justice Center, social services, police station, and employee amenities. (building the jail on this site would significantly reduce the number of cars that would be added to the road should the jail be built in any of the 4 proposed neighborhood sites), sprawl-your assumption has been that a low rise building is better for security purposes, but adding sprawling low rise buildings to our neighborhoods is not a forward thinking, "green city" sustainable option that considers the long view- perhaps the security personnel can be retrained to patrol in a city setting- perhaps the city could act as a nationwide example of bringing jail security into the 21st century.

There's more to this problem than NIMBYs- this acronym carries a very non-compassionate/empathetic tone, but the reality is that this question of jail siting is more about social justice for the prisoners and in turn for the neighborhoods. The essence of a jail should be rehabilitation- it is punishment that should be geared towards this. The location and environment of the 4 proposed jail sites are not conducive to a sense of belonging to a greater community. It is important for a prisoner to feel that they are not marginalized or pushed to the edges of society, but should be embraced in the workings of the city and shown the weight of that responsibility. It is often times such marginalization that results in prison sentences in the first place.

Recently Seattle embraced the Dalai Lama and his message of compassion- the city received world-wide recognition for the event- it is our opportunity, our responsibility, to also consider

compassion in making these decisions. We are already the leader in sustainable design, we have gained recognition for embracing compassion- let's become a leader in that as well- even in these subtle ways.

I understand that the sale of this property is still in the works- and that time is running out. Now is the time to add this to the program of this site. Compensation to Triad for the added program to this downtown site now might even be less than the cost of researching and doing studies on a new site, having multiple community meetings in multiple communities, buying the property or group of properties, hiring marketing firms to package and sell the jail to the neighborhoods, re-zoning to allow for a jail outside of a downtown location, dealing with environmental mitigation, adding a considerable landscape buffer for the neighborhood, etc. In this trend setting, progressive, green city, putting the jail in the neighborhoods would be a step backwards that would be an embarrassment to the city when such potential exists in a truly urban site. Thank you, Carolyn Stauffer, Highland Park Resident