

Comments received via <http://www.seattle.gov/municipal/jail/questions.htm>  
on July 7, 2008

Name: Victoria Cruz

Neighborhood:

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. The Mayor's office has been working very closely with us to help tackle Aurora's problems through its support of the Aurora Avenue Task Force (72nd to 90th Streets). For this we are grateful. We believe, however, that any work we have done and plan to do will be severely damaged by the addition of a jail near our area. With an expected average stay of only 10 days, the jail will regularly release inmates. Approximately 20-40 inmates could be released out the backdoor everyday. Where would they go? On Aurora we have a thin commercial district that hides nearby residential areas. It is our experience that criminal activity that starts in the commercial area leaks into the surrounding neighborhoods (e.g., prostitution, drug dealing on residential corners and property crime). 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 one with immediately adjacent residences - single family homes, senior housing, condos and multi-family housing - including the low-income housing of Aki Kurose. 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. The 7 schools are: Ingraham High School (0.6 miles), Broadview Thompson K-8 (0.6 miles), Northgate Elementary (0.6 miles), Christ the King Elementary (0.6 miles), Haller Lake Children's Center (0.6 miles), Living Wisdom School (0.9 miles), Northgate Christian Academy (1 mile).
- The parcel is located within the boundaries of the Bitterlake Hub Urban Village.
- There are three Seattle Parks facilities within one mile: Madison Pool (0.7 miles), Bitterlake Playfield (0.5 miles) and Broadview Park (0.6 miles).
- Aurora has been vulnerable to high levels of crime. Although some areas of Aurora have seen a reduction in crime, locating a jail with the potential flow of 20-40 inmates daily on our vulnerable streets threatens the gains we have made as a community.
- The 358 bus-line carries nearly 10,000 riders a day and is expected to increase when Bus Rapid Transit comes to Aurora in a few years. The 358 is already known as one of the higher crime routes. Adding additional risks of released inmates will only contribute to its already risky status. Please choose a site that is further from residential areas and schools, closer to the downtown courthouse and less vulnerable to crime.

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Name: Cathy Solemslie

Neighborhood:

Please reconsider the site selection of the Puetz Golf Course.

- \* This facility is on the edge of a residential community.
- \* The area already has a lot of transients lingering around. Just yesterday as I was walking along the path by the Engineering Department on Ashworth Avenue North, there was a homeless person sleeping in the grass.
- \* We already have problems with drugs, prostitution and graffiti on all the street signs.
- \* The site is located in a drainage area.
- \* The Puetz site is the farthest away from the downtown courthouse.
- \* Puetz is privately owned and the city already has property that could be utilized.
- \* Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery could be a magnet for people to use.
- \* The public transportation on Aurora has enough problems with the clientele that they serve.
- \* Northgate Elementary School is very close and many children walk to and from school.
- \* There is a mobile home park very close the the Puetz property. There are a lot of families living there.
- \* Northwest Hospital would also be impacted by your decision to locate the jail in this area. Our Emergency Room is one of the busiest in the City and would be impacted by the hospital visits of jail inmates and/or family and friends.