

The Keller Group  
City of Seattle  
Municipal Jail Project  
September 11, 2008

## **Notes from Magnolia Community Club Meeting September 11, 2008**

Following are notes taken from the discussion at the Magnolia Community Club meeting held at Blaine Elementary cafeteria on September 11, 2008. Approximately 150 people were in attendance. Mary Pearson and Catherine Cornwall from the City and Cynthia Scheiderer and Lee Keller from The Keller Group attended; after a brief update from Ms. Cornwall, Ms. Cornwall and Ms. Pearson took questions. City Councilmember Tim Burgess and County Councilmember Larry Phillips were also in attendance and gave brief addresses and took questions. These notes are an attempt to capture the questions and comments that were raised, in the order that they came up.

Questions and points raised by meeting participants:

- Why hasn't the City sent a letter to the home of every address in Seattle about this issue?
- How are we going to get around once this project starts? There's so much development going on – Whole Foods, road work – how can this be a good site because of traffic impacts?
- Who goes in this jail? Is there any possibility that people who have pled down or who have felony records could be in this jail?
- Is a regional solution with the County still in play? How realistic is that option?
- What's covered in the EIS?
- Will there be a downtown option, to have it near where the courts and services are?
- There is an inconsistency between zoning to make Interbay more accessible to housing and such, and putting in a maximum security jail.
- Although it's not zoned residential, it's in the middle of the neighborhoods of Magnolia and Queen Anne. I've always envisioned it as residential.
- Are you going to look at sites outside of Seattle now that you're working with the Eastside and North cities?
- It's hard to believe that as a funding issue it's economically feasible to build it in Seattle when it's so expensive to live here. Does it make sense to site it within Seattle given the high cost of land rather than east of the mountains? Plus, we're already dealing with a lot of other issues like Ft. Lawton.
- Are we looking at a possibility that Interbay essentially becomes a regional facility?
- Has each site been appraised so we know the value of the real property? When will that process begin?
- Is it fair to say that the Interbay site would be the most expensive land of the sites?
- A big difference is that the RJC in Kent is attached to courts. Downtown is next to courts. Has any thought been given to cost and office time transporting prisoners?
- How does it make sense that you do the EIS after you pick the location?
- Wouldn't it be good to do an EIS on a downtown location as well?
- What about SODO?
- We're trying to establish a new port for cruise ships and the first thing they'll see when they get off is a prison. It's a gateway to our state.
- Is the City Council going to be tasked to decide on this issue?
- You mentioned there's a holding pattern with the Eastside and North cities. How long until they catch up? Is this really viable? How is the decision made, is it a joint vote?
- What is the population density near each site? How could you not look at population density?
- There are a lot of children in the neighborhood. You need to consider the little kids.
- When you went from the 35 to the 4 sites, did you consider the opportunity cost?
- Fire Station 20 was rejected by FFD as unsafe, so why wouldn't they reject the site for a jail with 600 people in it?

- The City and the County need to figure this out.
- There will be a negative impact in property values, and bring down the City's revenue stream.
- What about plea bargains?
- The City is emphasizing density in all of its building, so why the focus on low-rise?
- What money does the County need to continue providing jail services?
- What about money from the state?
- In the EIS will you specifically look at particular impacts like traffic, population density, and will you look at alternatives, opportunity cost?