

The Keller Group
City of Seattle
Municipal Jail Project
June 9, 2008

Notes from Queen Anne/Magnolia Planning Council Meeting June 9, 2008

Following are notes taken from the discussion at the Queen Anne / Magnolia Planning Council meeting held in the Magnolia Community Center on June 9, 2008. Approximately 18 people attended the meeting. Catherine Cornwall from the City and Wiley Brooks from The Keller Group attended; Ms. Cornwall gave a short overview but quickly moved into taking questions from those present. There were many questions and this documents aims to represent them as accurately as possible.

Questions and points raised by meeting participants:

- How many people are in the jail on misdemeanor charges?
- Why did you eliminate the downtown option? You're making the assumption that it will be low-rise. What's the status of the decision between low-rise and high-rise?
- If you're going to do an environmental impact statement you should include the downtown option.
- Where are the prisoners traveling to and from?
- Didn't we just build courts downtown?
- I have friends who work in jails and they all tell me that security is a lot harder in a high-rise jail.
- How much is the 7-acre parcel in Interbay worth?
- Why not just add more space to the Regional Justice Center in Kent?
- How many beds are already at the Regional Justice Center?
- How does building a jail in an industrial zone mesh with the mayor's and the council's desire to preserve industrial land?
- Are you really pursuing the regional part of all this? Are you seriously talking to other cities?
- Is the county part of the solution? Who are you talking with at the county?
- At the same time that the City is taking this added responsibility for misdemeanor offenders, the County said it is cutting back on law enforcement. That doesn't connect for me.
- What are the priorities in terms of basic services the City needs to provide?
- The City invested 10s of millions of dollars 5 or 6 years ago to build a new courthouse downtown. If we now put a jail in a neighborhood, services over time will migrate to that neighborhood.
- I understand that we need to plan for more jail beds, but I'm having a problem understanding why we need 7 acres for it.
- If you add a downtown site, will you do an additional public forum?
- If you can't build a fire station in Interbay because it's a liquefaction zone, why can you build a jail there?
- From the bus stop on 15th to where the jail would go is a quarter mile. People would have to walk right by the entrance of the new Whole Foods that's going in. There will be lots of traffic and a safety issue.