

To Whom It May Concern:

From: Cambridge Heights Residents, Kirkland WA 98034

Subject: Proposed Kingsgate jail site

Date: December 10, 2008

We understand from news reports that a site, 13225 NE 126<sup>th</sup> PL, in Kingsgate is a potential space for creating a new jail for King County. We understand that the main county jail is short on space and that this new jail will likely house those imprisoned for misdemeanor crimes. While we recognize the need for the county to provide additional jail facilities, **we strongly protest the choice of this site for the following reasons:**

- This is a predominantly residential area and the proposed jail causes significant concerns regarding safety. We do not want criminals released near our homes. Although some news reports suggest that alternatives may be found for releasing criminals back into the neighborhoods where they were arrested, we do not believe that such a policy will be sustained over a long period of time. In case of financial concerns, such arrangements are likely to be rescinded.
- Although the jail is currently intended for misdemeanor convictions, we have no guarantees that future financial and inmate population problems will not convert this site into one that holds those convicted of felonies.
- The proposed site is within a mile of 2 elementary schools (John Muir and Robert Frost) and a Jr. High (Kamiakin) and a High school (Juanita). Our children walk home from school, play sports at nearby 132<sup>nd</sup> Square Park, and attend activities at neighborhood gymnastics studios, ice rinks, martial arts studios etc. All of these facilities which cater to children and families are within walking distance of this said jail site.
- Another major concern for us is traffic. The exits at NE 124<sup>th</sup> St and NE 116<sup>th</sup> St off 405 which will serve this jail have been recently expanded to accommodate the currently heavy traffic. The jail will bring a very large population to work and provide services to the inmates and increase traffic and create problems for the neighborhood. Also, the streets (NE 124<sup>th</sup>, Slater Ave) are already overburdened during peak hours; we don't need more traffic.
- This Kingsgate area is one of the most affordable and desirable neighborhoods for middle class families on the Eastside. Adding a jail to this neighborhood will make this area undesirable for future residents. Not only does the current economy

significantly affect our home values, but this proposed jail will further adversely affect our neighborhood home values and we residents cannot afford that.

- While you may argue that the new jail will bring in more money to the local economy, we say that those ancillary businesses that will spring up around our neighborhood are not what we want for neighborhood development. As it is, the city of Kirkland voted against incorporating this unincorporated area of the county into the city limits with most residents citing neighborhood image as a concern. We do not want to have our neighborhood image further devalued.

Cambridge Heights represents 50 homes with a majority of those households having school age children. **We do not want the jail here.** Other developments in this area—Upland Green, Firloch, Village at Blue Gables--are all equally family centered and will, no doubt, join us in protesting this jail site.

We respectfully suggest that instead of placing the new jail within a suburban residential area that the County considers expanding its current jail facilities. It might be a more economical choice as the current site already has ancillary facilities like kitchens and medical facilities. Alternatively, the County can choose a site that is not proximate to residential communities.

We thank you for listening to us. We hope that you will remove this site from your consideration.

Thank you.  
Cordially,

Cambridge Heights Home Owners Association