



## Dec. 10, 2008 – NEC Municipal Jail Public Forum Comments Recorded on Flip Charts

*Note: Flip charts were used at each table; comments are grouped by the table on which they appeared.*

### Table #1

- Decrease in home value
- Proximity to neighborhoods, parks, schools
- Where will current waste management site be relocated?
  - Show us a study/proof that a jail is a better use of land
- Unincorporated KC has no representation – no one to fight against this travesty

### Table #2

- Not compatible with surrounding residential area
- Public safety – Unincorporated KC is served by KC Sheriff Dept., which is having severe budget issues, would the cities involved [illegible] this?
- Residents of surrounding area are some of our most vulnerable – elderly, children, assisted living; these people deserve a fully funded police force
- Traffic – the small road this site is located on will not support such a large prison population without major renovations
- Lack of infrastructure – not near a public transit hub; inmates release would have to walk through several residential neighborhoods to get to a park and ride; there is minimal taxi service in this neighborhood
- Under one mile to John Muir Elementary and Kamiakin Junior High
- A preschool is located across the street from this location, isn't there a minimum distance requirement for locating a prison near schools and daycare centers?
- Who do we turn to if we encounter problems with the jail? We have no city police force or city council representatives
- According to Kirkland study, at least 55% of these inmates would have prior felony or pending felony convictions, including drug, kidnapping, violent behavior, theft; we don't have the support of services to deal with these types of offenders
- Is it a good idea to locate a prison next to a hazardous materials pipeline?

### Table #3

- Yards from residential, schools, daycare, parks
- Traffic = additional to an already stressed area and who pays for upkeep/maintenance?
- Population released into community and need to go through residential neighborhood to get nearest transit center (Evergreen)
- Only two King County Sheriffs assigned to this area now; while they say there will be increased police presence, they will have no jurisdiction in this area
- We already are fighting to be annexed; with low-income area and casino, a jail will hurt chances for our consideration by any surrounding cities

### Table #5

- Factors to consider:
  - Location of courts inmates need to go to
  - Traffic access
  - Local police support
  - Proximity to schools/residences/parks
  - Bus routes
- Concerns
  - Safety
  - Lack of local law enforcement
  - Community perception
  - Would it house felons if county jail full?
  - Kirkland police not part of unincorporated
  - Traffic – narrow street, no light, no sidewalks, one access road
  - Property value
  - Decreased annexation opportunity
  - Levels of security in jail
  - Early release if over crowded?
  - Where do released inmates go?
  - Security from visitors
  - Related businesses – bail bonds, check cashing
  - Decreased re-development of the area
  - Wetlands?
  - Proximity to schools, parks
  - Lack of bus access
- Ways to address concerns
  - Approve a different site

### Table #6

- Residential property value
- Area around Kent jail has all turned commercial
- Safety for our families
- Traffic with there being two schools less than a mile
- What is the break down of the population being housed in this jail?
- What would happen to W/M that is presently located there?
- What happens to an inmate released and doesn't have a ride?
- Would homeowners insurance go up with a jail less than a mile away?

- Who do we turn to if it doesn't work out like Kent and we have problems, then will it be torn down?
- Just because it's a jail does that mean there's more police or are they correction officers?

**Table #7**

- What was the scoring process/matrix and the scores for each facility? (Specifically the Annex that is missing from the handout)
- Cite the study regarding property values
- Concerns about the vacant lot to the north
- Two public schools within 1 mile, NW aerials, soccer fields, LW soccer association
- Are there safeguards to ensure the facility doesn't get repurposed as a felony jail or other?
- Factor:
  - Population density
  - Impact on businesses
  - Proximity to schools, hospitals, churches
  - Near the greatest population of criminals
  - Traffic impact (trips per day, number of cars)
  - Impact to Woodinville, Kirkland tourism

**Table #8**

- A jail one mile from three schools that do not have bussing – the kids walk to school
- Police presence – we are in Unincorporated KC, no police service, see the KC Sheriff one time a year
- What is the capacity of the jail, 640 beds?
- Concerned about property values; don't believe what you said! Want to see the results of the study
- Realtors are being told not to tell prospective new buyers about the proximity of the jail
- You slipped the casino in on us without any knowledge
- What percentage of those jailed have prior felony convictions?
- Where are prisoners released? Lack of public transportation here
- Burnstead builder/developer wants to build million dollar homes a mile from the jail; wants to build homes with good views
- Will the jail be built with expandability in the future?
- Builder/developer will build 51 million dollar houses – done deal; will bring in lots of taxes the jail will not match

### **Table #9**

- Already inadequate police coverage for Unincorporated KC
  - Kirkland police not available to respond to problems
- Kirkland unwilling to annex, yet wants our community to bare the burden
  - While legal, it is unfair
- Location to neighborhoods, schools, parks, etc.
- Limited transport for released prisoners to use
- No promise in what future inmates will be
- Increased local crime rate by association of inmates
- Already have casino and a number of bars
- Children walking by

### **Table #10**

- Factors
  - Proximity to a number of schools
  - Traffic congestion and inadequate infrastructure
  - Distance to shuttle to and from Seattle courts
  - Proximity to residential
- Major Concerns
  - Safety – pedestrian path to transit station through schools and parks
  - Misdemeanors today/ felonies tomorrow?
  - Jail overcrowding in the future?
  - Traffic!
- Address concerns
  - Can we see:
    - Safety studies (crime rates)
    - Property values studies (re: RJC)

### **Table #11**

- Police response time – current and future currently poor in Kingsgate and Totem Lake
- Prisoner release methods – how many?
  - Loitering in neighborhoods and parks
  - Homeless prisoner release services
  - Public transportation links to site release at booking location
- Property values – residential property values
- Nature and quantity of visitors
- Proximity to residential and schools vs. other sites

### **Table #13**

- Property value impacts
- Unequal representation
- Environmental justice issues
- Absorbing Seattle's impact (beds) in an area not used for jail/courthouses
- Undesirable transient populations waiting for friends that are in jail
- Conflict of land uses – residential and schools, parks and churches

- Inadequate transit facilities and routes
  - Signal capacity at road intersection may not be enough, also sidewalks, crosswalks
- Where will employees go for services?
  - Few restaurants in that area
- Erodes appeal of PAA to cities for incorporation when considering also the low-income housing and casino – which many neighbors opposed
- Why not have smaller single city facilities?
- Kirkland already has a regional court – should spread impact across eastside cities
- Concern about “escapes” that occur when transported to hospitals – will there be an increased impact on Evergreen?
- Annex site represents a cost savings for medical and administrative costs
- What is the medical/criminal/mental health background of the inmates in this facility? Do Seattle inmates have a different profile?

**Table #14**

- Factors
  - Proximity to neighborhoods
  - Proximity to schools
  - Proximity to parks and wineries – business/tourism
  - Cost
  - Police support
  - How will it affect annexation?
  - Public transportation
  - Business impact to local businesses – winery image
- Concerns
  - Property valuation
  - Safety
  - Proximity to homes, schools, parks
  - Traffic (signals, road work, cost/upkeep)
  - Noise
  - Supporting businesses – bail bonds (undesirable in, desirable out)
  - Increased transients
  - Release of felons – sex offenders, repeat offenders
  - Bring more drugs into neighborhoods
  - Sprawl substations
- Ways to address concerns
  - Don’t build in UKC – near schools, homes, no police support dedicated
  - Sources/studies for property value impact, transient impact, business (secondary) impact – bail bonds
  - Where do they go when released?
  - Report on crime statistics after jail

### Table #15

- Top five factors
  - Proximity to residential areas with few to no street lights
  - Effects on residential property values
  - Proximity to parks, schools and Burke-Gilman or Sammamish Trail
  - Displacement of current businesses – where do they go?
  - Negative effects on tourism (wine country)
  - Site where there is existing jails – more compatible with existing land use
- This site
  - Residences within 500-ft
  - 132<sup>nd</sup> Square Park within 1,000-ft – extensively used by children
  - Schools close by
  - Traffic problems – congested area
  - Cost and energy consumed to transport prisoners and family etc. to the edge of the serviced area
- Mitigation
  - Exceptional building design and landscaping
  - Rebase prisoners in their own communities