



Dec. 11, 2008 – NEC Municipal Jail Public Forum Comments Submitted via Comment Cards

“Selection of site (Shoreline) flawed, school board was unaware of selection, planning commission unaware. Site is mislabeled as vacant, is in fact a very actively used recreational area. Financial analysis must include costs to homeowners in terms of property values. Provide “transparent” recounting who was responsible for including this site and what was the process?”

Larry Demich
Lake Forest Park

“Not locate a jail in a residential neighborhood with such a huge family presence. Decrease in property values will be a detriment to the entire Shoreline community. Decrease in families moving here.”

Anonymous

“There are many reasons to object to this proposal. My wife has intelligently articulated several on her comment card. In addition to those, I believe siting a correctional facility in a zoned residential area will have a profound impact on real estate values. Within one block in every direction there are apartments, condominiums and single-family residences. This is strictly a residential neighborhood. I can’t imagine that the presence of a jail within a block would do anything except lower the value of property. As a retired career police officer and being familiar with law enforcement-court related dynamics, I simply cannot imagine the negative effect on residential property values not being taken into consideration.”

Anonymous

“Of all possible sites this is the only one that impacts such a highly residential area. There is low-level public transportation service. Police service is spread out and low coverage with little capacity for emergency. Economics dictates the jail be located closer to the court system as transportation this far north is congested, slow and therefore expensive. There is little or no service or transportation for jail visitors or work release inmates. As Seattle is project to have 445 inmates while the other cities less than 200 altogether, the jail should be located in Seattle, the source of most inmates and visitors. The Seattle south site has no residential impact and is close to the Maleng and downtown courts. King County should review this Shoreline site as park and playfield site, which is much needed in this residential area.”

Diane Libby
Lake Forest Park

“What is the spending trend for the state/city/county on rehabilitation/prevention/diversion/alternatives? Site is rarely vacant. Where is the data that shows the foot traffic? Where is the accountability for the City of Shoreline and King County for keeping this issue from the Shoreline School District and the residents of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park? Residential zoning should be a deal breaker.”

Vicki Pettiross
Lake Forest Park

“This is not an option – please take it off the list. This is a neighborhood. This will destroy the property.”

Chandi Holliman
Shoreline

“Please, please, please – take into account the current zoning and lane use of each of the proposed sites. We need to preserve and protect our residential neighborhoods. Sites such as the Shoreline site are right in the middle of residential neighborhoods, with schools, retirement facilities and single and multi-family homes. We are very concerned about this kind of facility in the neighborhoods where our children are growing up. Thank you!

Rob Born
Lake Forest Park

“Shoreline site is in a residential zone, across from an active school site, does not have adequate buffers for surrounding neighborhoods, concerned over lack of notice to adjacent neighbors in cities other than Shoreline – Lake Forest Park and Montlake Terrace. Also this designation creates a financial burden on the Shoreline School District by limiting the options of land and building use during the selection process.”

Wes Brandon
Shoreline

“No jail in a residential neighborhood. Process of how this site chosen – when was public asked for input? Cost of educating 18-21 year olds – who pays for this?”

Krista M Tenney
Shoreline

“Please make residential density a top priority in this siting decision. Please also make impact on residential property values a consideration in cost calculations. Please make percentage usage of beds a top priority issue.”

Alice Lawson
Shoreline

“It is inappropriate to offer a site up before checking with the people who own the site to see if it would be ok with them. Shoreline is a bedroom community and is not an appropriate site for a jail and does not have multiple sites to pick from. I came prepared to ask if it would be possible to expand current site and my initial contact at county council said the downtown site was not expandable. Nice to know that there is indeed a downtown expansion possible, tell us more.”

H Pat Murray
Shoreline/Seattle

“This is the only site that is almost 100% residential. That should disqualify it without further consideration.”

Anonymous

“This is a neighborhood with families and for many generations we neighbors would not like a jail in this neighborhood.”

Jamie Arnold
Shoreline

“Take the Shoreline 200th St off the list, plain and simple. My son goes to Living Wisdom, we love this school, this site and absolutely object to this plan.”

Darcy Delyle
Bothell (Rep. for Living Wisdom)

“How can you represent that there are single family residences across the street from the Maleng RJC when your own pictures show no houses. How can we believe you? What was/is the zoning for RJC?”

D Libby
Lake Forest Park

“It is not good for the jail because of: safety for children, value of house, properties, traffic and transportation, kids for play the ground (activities, sports), residential area”

Anonymous

“What will be the guarantee that this jail will not in the future house criminals (not just misdemeanors)? A study showed that out of 36 jail mates at a misdemeanor facility – 35 inmates has prior criminal arrests. Dangerous felons in a residential neighborhood with schools are not compatible.”

Cathy Steenstra
Shoreline

The Shoreline site is the only site that’s still under consideration that is zoned residential! All others are industrial or commercial. Why would we even consider this residential site with so many other viable non-residential sites? Please protect our residential neighborhoods!

Anonymous

“World’s worst idea! Near a school, park, creek, church, community center and HOUSES! Please list the names of Shoreline officials (city planning, staff, whoever) that approved this site. Post on Web site.”

Sean Osborn
Shoreline

“Don’t put a jail in Shoreline.”

Anonymous

“Transportation to and from the site is a problem. Compatibility with the neighborhood. The area around does not provide business space for eating, shops.”

Anonymous

“Lots of education about difference between jail and prison and zoning and essential public facility.”

Anonymous

“This would be a great loss of a recreational site for the children in Shoreline. What will these children do? Maybe get into trouble and need to be in a municipal jail later in life?”

Wynn Harper
Lake Forest Park

“There are twelve schools in the Shoreline and Edmonds School District that are 1-3 ½ miles from the proposed Shoreline site! I can’t believe that you aren’t considering what is best for children, our future! Are you aware of the extremely high gang activity and sex offenders in Montlake Terrace, which is next to this proposed site? Why would you build in the middle a residential area? Do you live within 3 miles of this site?”

Carol Harper
Lake Forest Park

“Our property value will go down. Residential area – a jail site is not feasible. There are environmental issues – wetland areas. Lived 40 years in the area – we need the field for children.”

P. Martin
Shoreline

“The Shoreline location is the most unlikely location to ‘site’ a jail. The obvious location is south Seattle. I used to live in West Seattle and worked in South Park. I’ve visited all the sites and from the point of view of a reasonable person, Shoreline makes no sense. The area is primarily residential. There is an elementary school within walking distance (LFP). The idea that a jail would help the local economy is without foundation and only clouds the issue that a facility such as this will only hurt our neighborhood. King County has plenty of open space to the east, if the idea of an urban setting is unconvincing. The repercussions of a decision to place this jail in Shoreline will be felt at the ballot box.”

Keil Larsen
Lake Forest Park

“A jail does not belong in a residential neighborhood! I understand it needs to be built somewhere, but please don’t put it near our schools and homes. Seems like the Unincorporated Site would be more appropriate. More regional services nearby (hospitals, etc.) Thank you for asking for our comments.”

M. Banker
Lake Forest Park

“Process – how was this given to the residents? Letter? Newspaper? I had a note on my door 3 days ago. Once done – will be there forever and what is next? Felons? No control. Take site off list of consideration! No trust in this process!”

Virginia M. Meier
Lake Forest Park

“No one answered the question about considering more than just the EIS for the next stage. You have to consider the residential neighborhood, the schools and the cost to property values. We also were never told who would make the decision and who I can hold accountable for the decision.”

Paul and Sheryl Yost
Shoreline

“What happens to our residential property values? What is to prevent expansion of jail, what is to prevent the jail from serving beyond KC? Money making for leased beds? How do you assure safety? What do you do to keep outside visitors from causing trouble in community? There are more important factors to consider than EIS, are NEC considering other factors?”

Paul Dorn
Lake Forest Park

“Why are we the only residential site? Why was Shoreline School District not notified until Nov. 20th? Proximity to schools, churches, parks, etc. Currently used for our children! What about our kids? Cost to educate prisoners that are eligible for education. Five percent of inmates in the 640 bed facility from Shoreline, two thirds from Seattle – put it in Seattle!”

Loretta Graves
Shoreline

“Under state law a school district must provide no-charge education to those under the age of 21 to get them through high school, many of the prisoners housed in you proposed jail will be eligible for this education. This adds yet another unfunded or underfunded burden on our district. The cost will be substantial due to the unique logistics of teaching in a jail environment; as well as to meet the unique needs of a prison population. Shoreline is already carrying enough of an unfunded burden with the Fircrest facility.”

Richard Potter
Shoreline

“Shoreline is the most residential site proposed. It doesn't make sense to locate this jail here. If Seattle has needs of 2/3 of the beds – house it closer to Seattle. The Shoreline site is near schools. Inmates will be released daily in an area filled with homes and families. People will not want to move in the neighborhood and property values will decrease. The businesses that are likely to be in place – bail bonds – will change our community for the worst. This is residential! Why a site so far away from the center of the county or the center of the north county – it's the furthest north and right next to Snohomish County.”

Ellen Winningham
LFP

“Shoreline site would have the greatest negative impact on local neighborhood home values and quality of life. This criteria needs more weight in the evaluation process. Economic impact has been totally discounted and should require an EIS to accurately evaluate the socio-economic impact.”

Dan Mann
Shoreline

“Shoreline site is located at the extreme northern boundary of King County – far from existing judicial courthouse and infrastructure and would be the most expensive to move prisoners to and from for hearings, sentencing and any legal process that requires an in person appearance. There is no infrastructure in the area.”

Dan Mann
Shoreline

“Shoreline site is directly across the street from a K-6 school building that was recently (2005) fully renovated and is in use by the district for academic programs. It is insanely insensitive to consider putting a jail within 50 yards of a school.”

Dan Mann
Shoreline

“Shoreline site is only one virtually surrounded by residential property – single family residences who will be directly affected by close proximity to the jail. Neighborhoods will suffer by loss of safety, increased traffic, noise and lowered property values. Will change character of neighborhood.

Dan Mann
Shoreline

“I am appalled that Shoreline (the only residential site) is being considered for the jail! This is a residential area surrounded by families, children and schools! This is not something we want near our homes and kids. It creates a great deal of anxiety and safety issues. The feel of the area will change as a result in a negative way regarding the commercial area, but also more importantly in the appeal/resale value of our homes and property. I do not believe the “studies show” otherwise, everyone I’ve talked to feels otherwise. This site is only an appealing choice if you completely disregard the neighborhood, people and community that surround it. The effect to the immediate area should be the most important factor in choosing the site!!”

Christi Hanks
Lake Forest Park

“Shoreline site is the only residential area among all six sites. Choose an industrial commercial area! There are many schools around the Aldercrest site. Safety concerns in this residential neighborhood. Not centralized for five cities.”

Anonymous
Shoreline

“For our children’s sake please don’t build a jail in our residential neighborhood!!”

Anonymous
Shoreline

“Ballinger cannot be adequately expanded to handle traffic which would come because of the NEC Municipal Jail. There are a tremendous number of children and families, which would be negatively impacted by the increased traffic and potential increase of dangerous people passing in and out as well as by loss of park space (fields). If a jail has to be in Shoreline, it should not be a facility of this size. Many non-English or limited English families in Ballinger homes would lose nearby play areas and probably cannot participate in this process.”

Mary Ellen Tolberg
Lake Forest Park

“As I look at the proposed sites, none are surrounded by residential property like the Shoreline site.”

Anonymous

“Totally opposed to “Old Kellogg” siting of jail. For those who have the jail butting on to their yard, can you honestly say that their property values would not be affected?”

Tom Birtley
Shoreline

“This is a residential area with speed limits of 25 to 30 miles per hour – no sidewalks. It is close to a park and a bog and creek that will not be good for the environment. Safety is my concern. Children play all around this area. Also who would want to pay a fair price for my home?”

Gordon Martin
Shoreline

“In all the comments tonight by the Ballinger neighbors, you failed to address what the impact is on the families at Housing Authority’s multi-family housing at 23rd Place off Ballinger Way. No one seemed to be here from there who spoke up. Many of the children are latchkey and go on skateboards down the middle of the street. Practically a whole busload of them from Kellogg Middle School gets off at our bus stop. Shoreline’s YMCA puts on a community center on weekend nights to keep them out of trouble and give them somewhere to go. What kind of message are you sending them by putting a jail in their neighborhood? They already fight a gang and drug presence there.”

Laurie Mescher
Shoreline

“Why are you putting this right in the middle of a residential neighborhood? There are lots of children who are used to playing at the city park and on this land. Lots of children at King County Housing Authority’s property at 2300 Ballinger Way play in the whole neighborhood. Teenagers and children constantly skateboard the main road – 25th. Do you care about your neighborhood? Do you care about children? Lake Forest Park School is very close. What kind of sick people are you to thrust this on us?”

Laurie Mescher
Shoreline

"I am profoundly disturbed by the possibility of a jail being built in my neighborhood. I live 2 blocks away from the proposed site. Building a jail in this residential neighborhood would adversely affect the community, safety and the property values of the homes in the area. It seems absolutely ridiculous that the county would essentially destroy the integrity of the neighborhood, the ability and safety of children playing in the park and the amount of traffic, possible crime and increased number of people in the only zoned residential site among the ones under consideration. Please reconsider this. The Shoreline site is a really bad choice."

Jennifer Kulik
Lake Forest Park

"This proposed jail facility belongs in downtown Seattle in close proximity to the county jail and the courthouse. It does not belong in our residential neighborhood!"

Brad Curtis
Shoreline

"Concern for the safety of our children (lots of children) in the neighborhood. Property values (my house) would drop. Unsavory people visiting, living and hanging around jails. Gangs would increase in Shoreline. This is a residential neighborhood! Also the drain on Shoreline School District funds to educate inmates (ages 18-21) is not fair or right to do. No jail in Shoreline!! P.S. this is 100-ft from our home!"

Ellen Sherman
Shoreline

"This is a residential area and should not be used for a jail."

Mark Sherman
Shoreline

"In scoring the sites for the jail selection process, please consider the human impact to neighborhoods higher than the economic and environmental impact. The Shoreline site should be removed from consideration due to its residential location and zoning."

Dawn LaPoint
Shoreline (shouting distance to the proposed site)

"Get out with this jail proposal. You are taking away from our community."

Anonymous

"The Shoreline site is not viable – 25 MPH speed limit. The roads are too narrow for cars, trucks, increased traffic and pedestrians. Now two schools are next to the site. Property values will go down."

Mark Johnson
Lake Forest Park

"It doesn't make any sense at all to have a jail in the property in Shoreline because: This is a residential area – no other properties are the same as this. There are schools, parks nearby, many kids play in the field and walk around the neighborhood. Streets are not suited for heavy traffic. Widening streets (esp. Ballinger toward 522) would be extremely difficult because it's surrounded by residential homes. City of Shoreline's goal should be in line with what the citizens want, not so against it."

Junko Keesecker
Shoreline

"Lack of public notice for 12/11/08 meeting at SCC. Official notice was mailed for 12/15/08 meeting, not 12/11/08 meeting. Question need and savings for size of project. Shoreline projects a 28-bed need. Smaller regional jails would fit communities better. Cost savings often vanish with projects of this scale. Residential nature of proposed Shoreline site – only one!"

Warren Keesecker
Shoreline

"It will be devastating to have this jail in this community. This is damaging to residents in Shoreline, LFP and Montlake Terrace. So many children live in the area. LFP Elementary School and Brookside Elementary School are too close to the site. I hope you will take this Shoreline Aldercrest site off from this municipal jail plan."

Mari Ninomiya
Lake Forest Park

"A great number of serious questions were asked tonight. No answers were offered. When and how will they be addressed?"

Tammy
Lake Forest Park

"Why does the City of Shoreline want this site? Why would a residential site be preferred over a commercial site? Is Seattle needs 445 beds, but all the NEC only need 195 – it seems only Seattle is the logical and fair choice. Shoreline is the only site zoned residential? Property values will significantly drop."

CWE
Lake Forest Park

"The Shoreline site makes no sense from a community standpoint! It's surrounded by single-family homes with children and is zoned residential! The Bellevue site and the downtown sites make the most sense and are zoned commercial and are surrounded by industrial and businesses."

Ed Weum
Lake Forest Park

"Does Shoreline want to be known as a jail?"

Anonymous

“This is a terrible idea to site a regional jail in a residential community. We have schools and parks in the area and the jail presence will ruin the current use of these parks and sports areas. Property values will suffer. Traffic will be a nightmare. Kids play all around this area. Shoreline should be for families and that should be protected.”

Joe Blanchard
Shoreline

“If there are no real safety concerns with a jail being built, why is there need for increased policing? What happens to the money from the sale of the site?”

Martha Jacobs
LFP

“For the Shoreline site – it does not make any sense to site a municipal jail in Shoreline. The Shoreline site is a residential site, there is little room to build the infrastructure and services to maintain the facility and the protection of open space must be a top priority in the county. A small Shoreline-own facility in a better location is one thing, but a municipal jail – NO WAY!!! No residential jail in Shoreline.”

Chris Roberts
Shoreline

“The Kent Regional Justice Center is not sited in an area similar to Shoreline. It is not in a quiet neighborhood – it is basically in downtown Kent.”

Rick Patneaude
LFP

“Neighborhood compatibility should be a ‘go/no-go’ criterion, not just one of many equally weighted factors. The ¼ mile radius around the Shoreline site is 95% residential. The next highest is the Unincorporated KC site at only 30%. This Shoreline site should never have been included. The Shoreline site is the only large park/open space in northeast Shoreline. How will it be replaced and where??”

Janne Kaje
Shoreline

“No one addressed the Ballinger homes issue – subsidized housing. 1996 – 2004 gang issues within Ballinger homes – there were real gangs from Renton and South Seattle trying to recruit young children (potential gang bangers) from the Ballinger homes area. Crime was on the rise. These children are at risk and when ‘friends of those in jail’ start to frequent the area who will protect the children from those potential recruiters?”

Anonymous