

**Comments received via <http://www.seattle.gov/municipaljail/questions.htm>
for January 08, 2009**

Name: anonymous anonymous

City: Shoreline

The Shoreline jail site is ridiculous! A jail in the middle of neighborhoods shouldn't even be an issue. Find a site that won't impact neighborhoods and home values. What are you thinking? We realize we need jails but why not expand those we already have or built in non residential areas. This is not a small project, over 600 beds is huge. How do we know that we really need a facility this large and that tax payers money won't be wasted on a half filled jail. Either way, I think you should keep on looking, elsewhere!

Name: Brian Chang

City: Bellevue

Not Bellevue!

Name: Elizabeth Simmons-O'Neill

City: Lake Forest Park

The NEC group should NOT site the proposed jail at Aldercrest in Shoreline for the following reasons:

TRAFFIC: Siting a 640 bed jail at Aldercrest would put untenable pressure on the already heavily overused state routes 104 (Ballinger Way) and 522 (Bothell Way) in an area with already insufficient access to public transportation. In the last three years, traffic on Ballinger Way has increased significantly, in part as a result of car commuters using this route to bypass other congested major routes. Driving conditions are over-crowded and sometimes dangerous for residents, now joined by many commuters from other areas. Family members of inmates and others needing access to visit the proposed jail would over-burden these routes and limited public transportation beyond function, and could also cause major problems on the narrow residential streets surrounding the site. These already over-burdened roads, the residential (non-commercial) area with few services for released inmates or visitors, and the lack of regular public transportation to and from the area will compromise current residents, visitors to inmates, released inmates, and inmates needing transportation to medical appointments and courts.

NOISE: Demolition, construction and the addition of 640 residents and related staff and visitors would inequitably increase noise for residents in the relatively quiet residential neighborhood where this site is located, and would trap residents of the densely populated multiple family apartment buildings on Ballinger and across the street from the Aldercrest site between two heavily used and noisy sites. As none of the other proposed sites is residential, this is an unnecessary and unfair burden to place on this residential area.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL USES OF THE SITE AND AREA: Aldercrest is the only residential site of the six proposed for the new jail. It is also home to an actively functioning public school program, which alone makes it inappropriate in terms of land use. The Aldercrest Learning Center and Discovery School serve special needs students from Snohomish, Northshore and Shoreline. With 5 other options available, there is no reason to disrupt a residential neighborhood, to add the traffic related to 640 inmates to the area, to destroy a frequently used community space, to crowd the small remaining

city park and wetland area with additional visitors and traffic and neighbors displaced by losing access to Aldercrest, or to vastly increase the density of an already dense urban neighborhood between Aldercrest and Ballinger. The Aldercrest site sits between a single-family residential area and a series of high density apartment complexes, some of them subsidized housing for low-income families. The traffic, noise, over-crowding of roads and limited public transportation, and increase in non-resident use of the area caused by adding a jail to an area of already dense population may also compromise efforts already underway to support low-income children and families.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CONCERNS: Keeping Aldercrest on the list of possible sites will have a chilling effect on the District's ability to sell surplus areas of the site or to maintain non-surplus areas, causing significant financial damage to the district in the midst of the most severe budgetary crisis we've seen in decades. Losses in tax revenue as nearby residential properties lose value in the midst of this siting process will further handicap the school district and the city. In short, even keeping Aldercrest on the list of potential sites directly compromises the needs of children and families. As a result, the School District has made it clear it is not willing to sell its property to the North/East Cities for this purpose.

Name: Mary Beutjer

City: Seattle

Seattle Neighborhood: Queen Anne

The north Seattle Interbay site is surrounded by established Seattle neighborhoods, namely Queen Anne and Magnolia and very near Ballard and Belltown. Putting a jail smack dab in the middle of this area will lower the profile and safety of these neighborhoods. It will make the homes of thousands of Seattleites less desirable. Our kids ride the city bus down 15th to go to Ballard High School. They shouldn't have to share that ride with the inmate population. Put the jail adjacent to the current jail or in an industrial area.

Name: Stacey Chesnut

City: Lake Forest Park

Of all the proposed sites listed, Shoreline makes the least sense! It lies across from a school and a park and is amidst a community of family homes. The location has become a park unto itself for many. There is no other site listed that would negatively effect an area as greatly. The roads are not made for constant delivery trucks to and fro. In no way is public transportation adequate. There are no surrounding businesses that may benefit by selling food or supplies as there are elsewhere. There is virtually NO benefit whatsoever with the possible exception of a sigh of relief for Seattle that it can dust its hands of the obligation. The negatives are bountiful, not in the least, the dangerous influences on our children. Please build elsewhere.

Name: Vale Murray

City: Shoreline

There are way to many schools and children activities to have a jail in shoreline! As a longtime resident and taxpayer of shoreline I am telling you that this is a bad idea and that we dont want it! My mother inlaws property has been flooding because of all the devlopment going on in shoreline and they have done nothing to help her!