



Dec. 3, 2008 – NEC Municipal Jail Public Forum Caucus Discussion Questions

What are the top five factors the NEC should consider in siting the Municipal Jail?

- People living nearby
- Sustainability – ease of construction
- Transportation / traffic / accessibility
- Co-location of existing facilities / programs / facilities for most crimes / arrests
- Safety
- Emergency medical facilities access
- Moving inmates to court, etc.
- Near crime center
- Near courts
- Near services for released inmates
- Central location – environment, traffic, services
- Minimize impact on surrounding neighborhood, downtown already has a jail, another would have minimal impact on neighborhood
- Provide services to keep citizens out of jail – drug treatment, mental health, jobs
- Proximity to courtrooms, social services
- Away from residential areas and schools
- What happens to inmates end of 2012 till jail opens?
- Proximity to needed services
- Central location
- Environmental impact of sprawling site vs. high-rise
- Environmental impact and cost
- Sprawling site vs. urban (small footprint)
- Using industrially zoned land for non-industrial uses
- We need to protect and support residents, families and neighborhoods
- We need to maintain the [illegible] of the residents
- We need to ensure that services be available to the residents
- We need to spend more energy for alternatives, the more kept out, the fewer beds
- Economic impact on community / businesses
- Emotional impact on neighborhood / fear
- Environmental concerns / density issues
- Traffic concerns
- Infrastructure and proximity to existing services
- Has the city considered re-negotiating the contract with the county?
- With increased focus on diversion and alternatives and systemic changes in our arrest and sentencing patterns – will we really need a new jail?

What is your biggest concern about a jail at this site?

- COST
- Doesn't improve the downtown area
- Providing services for released inmates and providing services that will prevent citizens from being jailed
- This is a good location for the jail – centrally located, services available, existing jail, central to crime, social services, courts
- Cost prohibitive? Will it be yanked from the table at the last minute?
- Interbay – traffic, safety, property value, neighborhood weakening, South Park
- This is an excellent site

Given that the jail has to go somewhere, what are the top things the NEC could do to address your concerns?

- Provide more / put more money in alternative services, treatments and diversion services
- Co-locate with other resources to maximize tax dollars
- Safety of inmates (liquefaction) safety of neighborhood
- More funding to alternatives to incarceration
- More funding for pre-incarceration services, drug treatment
- More post-incarceration services
- Drug treatment, mental and physical health, jobs
- Co-locate with existing services
- Go downtown
- Expand Kent – Councilman Phillips suggested that if the county residents voted an amount similar to the medical levy it would cover the needed expanded number of beds
- Conform to existing land use code and keep jail downtown
- Follow recommendation of “2007 Seattle Jail Capacity Needs Study” and build jail near courts
- Reevaluate the high or mid-rise solution