

**Comments received via <http://www.seattle.gov/municipaljail/questions.htm>  
for December 12, 2008**

Name: Brad Curtis

City: Shoreline

My father, Bob Curtis, and I, attended the NEC Public Forum held on December 11th at Shoreline Community College. As long term residents and property owners, adjacent to, and within 2 blocks of the proposed jail facility, we wish to reiterate that we are both adamantly opposed to the location of this facility within our neighborhood. While we were able to address many of our concerns verbally at the Public Forum, the following are some additional comments we believe need to be considered by the NECC planners and administrators.

#1: The assertion by the NECC planners that the location of the jail facility will have no impact on surrounding community property values is ludicrous at best. Having been involved with residential appraising and inspecting for over 20 years, we can attest that the first basic tenant of appraising property value is "location". Given the choice of choosing comparable residential properties between one located in the vicinity of a 640bed regional jail and one located in another distant neighborhood, we firmly believe that purchasers will overwhelmingly chose the latter. It is our opinion that the location of this facility within a residential neighborhood will, in fact, have severe and drastic effects on the surrounding residential property values. Given this, we wish to remind the NECC and the City of Shoreline of the following:

" According to the latest statistics published by the Northwest Multiple Listing Service (12/4/2008), the Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, and Kenmore communities are one of leaders in King County in residential property value retention; despite the slumping real estate market. In fact, these north King County communities are second only to the Eastside in all of King County in home value retention. Median home prices fell only 7.2% from the previous November in Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, and Kenmore. Whereas Seattle, and South King County communities saw there median home prices fall from between 12.6% to 16.1%. It is precisely the amenities (i.e, location, schools, etc.) that residents enjoy in our "bedroom" communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park that have helped retain those property values. However economically attractive the Aldercrest Annex site may look at first to the NECC, should be seriously weighed against the long term economic damage the choice would inflict on one of the county's prime residential communities. The long term loss in property tax revenues to King County and the Cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park are just some of the numerous hidden costs we are being asked to bear by locating this facility in our neighborhood.

There are numerous other reasons to oppose the location of this jail facility in this prime residential setting. It is our hope that the citizens of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park will stand and say "no WAY, NOT HERE!" to the NECC and our elected officials. We need to make it very clear, that many of us have invested our life savings in our homes and property. That if they proceed with this folly and further damage the value of our homes and property that we will collectively hold them responsible.

Name: Debby Nixon

City: Redmond

Do NOT put a jail in Kingsgate. Put it in an outlying area. Kingsgate is too close to affluent suburban homes and the brand new hospital/medical complexes that many people in the area access on a regular basis. Property values in Kirkland will suffer and the crime will go up. Those of us who live in Redmond and Woodinville regularly have to drive through that area to access I-405.

NO, NO, NO to Kingsgate.

Name: Jon Ward

City: Lake Forest Park

I don't think there should be a regional jail at the Aldercrest Annex. That area is perfect for a park or future development, whether it be residential or commercial. There are too many residents I have spoken with that would feel very uneasy with a jail so close to their backyard.

Name: Katy Burke

City: Lake Forest Park

I am opposed to the plan for the announcement by the North/East Cities (NEC) municipal jail planning group identifying the Aldercrest Annex (also known as the Grace Cole Education Complex or Old Kellogg) site, 2545 NE 200th St., as a potential site for a 640bed regional misdemeanor jail facility causes serious concerns for the Shoreline School District. At no time was the Shoreline School District consulted or informed by anyone involved in this process, including the City of Shoreline, that the Aldercrest Annex site was under consideration. I feel that planning for a 650 bed municipal jail would be a detriment to all the families attending the school, as well as the surrounding areas, filled with children and families, in a residential neighborhood. You cannot turn a school into a jail.

Name: Paul Schneider

City: Lake Forest Park

First I am a few blocks away from Kellog and I received notification after 6pm on the night of the Public Forum. more importantly in a neighborhood filled with children playing in side streets and culdesacs 'misdemeanor' can be in the eye of the beholder. Why is this in a neighborhood highly populated with children? Many children also play on Kellog field and why do you remove play areas? For shame.

Name: Raymond Doyle

Lake Forest Park

Seattle Neighborhood: N/A

The jail would be inappropriate for the Shoreline site at Aldercrest Annex. This is a neighborhood!

Name: Debbie Kellogg

City: Shoreline

I am not going to use your web form because I don't get a copy of my email - and your group has earned absolutely no trust from the group in attendance last night nor from myself.

I spoke to the City of Mountlake Terrace this morning. They are frustrated because they view this process as similar to the Brightwater sewer project where their concerns are not considered.

I spoke to a member of the Shoreline City Council. I discovered that the Shoreline city staff briefed them in ones and twos to circumvent the public process and swore them to secrecy in the site selection process for Shoreline - and I will be telling citizens of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, and Mountlake Terrace of that fact. Our government is supposed to be open and transparent - it is obvious that this organization and its staff is secret. I was also told by the city council members I know that your staff only opened up the Seattle site selection because your "secret" was out. That is not how our government is supposed to work - and I used to be an urban planner. The deviousness of the staff thus far are shockingly bad examples of civil servants and they should be ashamed. As such, this email will go to all of the affected elected bodies - staff must be held accountable, especially when the public in attendance are led to believe that their elected officials were responsible for site selection when in fact they were not.

Several of us spent some time trying to get answers from Seattle and Shoreline staff members in attendance - we were told the staff members were there to answer our questions. They didn't answer our questions, they just stonewalled. I then found out from a different Shoreline city council member that they recently attended training in how to answer questions from the public in which they made the questioner feel as if they were heard yet provided no information - this was a class recommended by the city staff. Obviously the city staff have taken this lesson to heart, as they were practicing this last night - no answers were provided. It became a sport to ask questions knowing that answers were not forthcoming. It is hard to respect the staff or the process when we, as the public, know that you hold us in such low regard that you do not feel it necessary to answer our questions. Not only do you hold us in such low regard, but you obviously hold the Shoreline School District in such low regard that you even feel it necessary to advise them of your plans for their property. The arrogance of your organization and its staff is astounding.

I will be writing under a separate email more specific comments when the Shoreline site has a specific comment section available on your web page.

Name: Ashmi Bhanushali

City: Kirkland

Respected Bellevue City Councilmembers,

I am a resident of Kirkland and I stay very close to the 124th Ave NE & 132nd St NE intersection. I recently found out that 13225 NE 126th Place, Kirkland is being considered as a site for a new jail. When I contacted Kirkland City Councilmembers regarding this, Councilmember Kathy Lambert told me that the city representative who is working on this issue is Diane Carlson at the City of Bellevue. I wanted to bring to your attention various points why

this is NOT a good idea.

- I know of 4 schools within 2.3 miles of this location the closest is less than 1 mile away. Two of these are elementary schools.
- There are a large number of residential neighborhoods very near this including many community parks.
- Property values of homes in the area will go down and I doubt anybody wants their value to go down any further than it already has.
- This is an unincorporated area of the county and the county has already said they have insufficient police and fire staff to adequately patrol and protect the citizens of the unincorporated area. This is why they are willing to pay millions for cities such as Kirkland to incorporate. But if Kirkland were to incorporate this they too have said they would not be able to provide police and fire protection.
- This is for the city of Kirkland who has already said they don't want any of the residents of the unincorporated areas near here. Why should we house their criminals?
- We already have a casino, a mall that never gets improved, traffic that is horrible, and roads that are in poor repair. This would just further entrench this area as an "undesirable" place to live.

All of the above reasons are a big concern to people living in Kirkland. We need to look out for the safety of our kids and community. A jail in a neighbourhood like us is a dangerous idea. Also in today's economy we can not afford even lower property values. This is not a good location to build a jail and county should look into some other areas which are not residential or commercial. Some place where there is no danger to the people living in community or economy of the neighbourhood. The site next to the current jail in Seattle is one such place. There already is a jail there and hence there will be no change in that neighbourhood.

I definitely want to raise an objection for this site and please let me know if there is anything else I should be doing so that I along with many other families will be heard.

Thanks,  
Ashmi Bhanushali