

**Comments received via <http://www.seattle.gov/municipaljail/questions.htm>
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City: Seattle

Seattle Neighborhood: Whittier Heights

I hope that you will all reconsider the question of whether we truly, really NEED a new municipal jail. Yes, King Co. facilities are maxing out BUT that is in part because of the continued failed Drug War, that incarcerates at extreme expense persons who do not need to be in jail for public safety in fact all research shows that dealing with them as a health issue, drug addicts, saves the county money, costs less, has long lasting positive results and responds to reality jails do NOT work. Second the municipal jail problem comes in part because the budget cuts are eliminating designated drug courts that sentence people to rehabilitation and hospitals, rather than jails, saving us all money. The money for a new jail would come mostly from cuts to education!! Do we really want more jails and less schools??

Third we need to recognize that King Co. Corrections (our 2 jails) are the single largest mental health facility in our State. Can't we find a better way to deal with alcoholics, street people and the mentally ill than locking them up when they totally predictably act out or do things that disturb others? I think so. Start lobbying the Cities, the County and the State Legislatures to reexamine their priorities, get out of the Drug War revolving door, and make education and rehabilitation the default, not jail. Look at Real Change newspaper's site: Realchangeorganization.org for the Campaign on Efficiency in Public Safety @ www.nonewjail.org .