



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 1
COUNCILMEMBER LISA HERBOLD

May 18, 2016

Nathan Torgelson, Director
Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

RE: Project #3020845

I am writing you today in my capacity as chair of the Council's Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development and Arts Committee and supporter of Council Resolution 31614, "...endorsing a vision for The City of Seattle to become a city with zero detention for youth, and establishing a path forward to develop policies that eliminate the need for youth detention." One of my responsibilities on the Council is to monitor the implementation of this vision, including the contract with the Social Justice Fund to provide services relating to zero youth detention projects.

By way of this letter, I am asking that you carefully consider the issues raised in the March 15, 2016 letter from End the Prison Industrial Complex —Seattle (EPIC) regarding the permit application and request for waiver for the proposed new juvenile detention center. A previous City Council enacted specific development standards relating to structure width and setbacks for replacement, additions, or expansions of youth service centers in public facilities operated by King County in an LR3 zone within an Urban Center Village. According to 23.45.570, the Director's decision to waive or modify standards must be based on a finding that the waiver or modification is needed to accommodate *unique programming, public service delivery, or structural needs of the facility*.

I understand that the number of detention beds that are part of the project today have been reduced from the 210 beds proposed under this waiver request. Consequently, I ask that you consider whether it is appropriate to gather additional information from King County about why the waivers are still needed.

Please also note that under a separate letter to King County officials, I will request that they consider a third-party needs analysis. In 2008, the City Council passed a Statement of Legislative Intent that led to a concerted effort to examine capacity, needs, and alternatives to incarceration. The City and County then worked jointly on evaluating the need for that previously proposed adult jail. Though the circumstances were different, it resulted in the identification of policy-based reasons for King County to anticipate that the recent decrease in jail bookings would be sustainable, and ultimately helped to inform the decision not to build that facility.

I will copy you on that letter. Given the promise of future progress in reducing youth incarceration, I hope that County officials will join us in examining carefully how our decisions about the facilities we build might undermine our policy goals of eliminating the incarceration of children in our City. A needs assessment may result in changes to the County's application that I am certain you and your staff will be able to explore constructively with King County staff.

Sincerely,



Lisa Herbold

Chair, Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development and Arts Committee

CC: EPIC, James Williams
Councilmember Rob Johnson, PLUZ Committee Chair
Patricia Lally, Seattle Office of Civil Rights Director
Diane Carlson, Director of Regional Initiatives, King County Executive