

From: [Cathy Halka](#)
To: [Monica Rouse](#); [SAC](#)
Subject: FW: Shortage of JAIL SPACE
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2022 12:54:47 PM

From: Bill Elfo
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:54 AM
To: Cathy Halka <CHalka@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: FW: Shortage of JAIL SPACE

Hi Cathy, can you forward the below communication to the members of the SAC – Thank you, Bill

From: Bill Elfo
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 11:17 AM
To: 'Bill LaFreniere' <elderladbill@outlook.com>
Subject: RE: Shortage of JAIL SPACE

Bill, thank you for your email. It will ultimately be the County Council (not the Sheriff) that determines if and when a proposal for a replacement jail will be put forward to voters and if so, the Council in conjunction with the Executive's Office will determine issues related to size, design and location. The County Council charged a "Stakeholder's Advisory Committee" to tender recommendations. I will take the liberty of forwarding your thoughts on to this Committee so they can receive consideration. Thank you,

From: Bill LaFreniere <elderladbill@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 04, 2022 8:12 PM
To: council@whatcom.wa.us; 'ccmail@cob.org' <ccmail@cob.org>; Bill Elfo <BElfo@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Shortage of JAIL SPACE

Here we are again. Not too many years ago, the citizens of Whatcom county were led through much-politicized discussions about what a new jail would look like. Started out with expensive plans for concrete buildings with modular interior structures. I was a candidate for County council at the time. I can recall being in favor of building (2X) that structure, and leasing one building to Federal Immigration for their use. As I recall, there were folks that wanted a softer approach to dealing with criminals. The City of Bellingham insisted that any jail design be set up to deal with the mentally ill and drug addicted. Whatcom county bowed down to the demands of the city. They recently completed what is commonly referred to as the Cream-puff jail. Now that the funds provided by citizens of Whatcom County have been spent on the CITY JAIL, we are being told that we have no jail

space and need a new jail. Also that drug-rehab facilities be included in a new jail package.

I have been trying for several years to get the city of Bellingham to convert the Lake Padden golf course into 500+ RV spaces, tenting areas, cold-weather shelter and support services for low-income and homeless citizens. The city has been spending many millions of dollars a year building social housing for low-income people. The cost is very high, and they have been unable to help a majority of the homeless. In addition to the RV park, I had proposed that Whatcom county set up a drug rehab center on property adjacent to the city-owned golf course property.

I believe that the city of Bellingham owes the citizens of Whatcom county for the poor leadership that led to the construction of the Cream-puff jail. With that in mind, I will again ask that the City of Bellingham convert the Lake Padden Golf area into a low-cost RV park and to manage the area for purposes of relocating the city's homeless citizens. This would prevent those homeless folks from squatting on private property in areas of Whatcom county surrounding the city, and prevent the caring for these folks from falling on Whatcom county. I believe that the best place to provide a drug-rehabilitation center as it would be adjacent to that park, where there would be ample access to the Lake Padden recreation area.

As for a NEW JAIL, I would support the previous design at the Ferndale location with the option of TWO BASIC cell-block buildings and leasing out ONE to help make the payments on financing. I hope that you folks making the bad decisions get it right this time. Thanks, Bill LaFreniere of Whatcom county.

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