

From: [Cliff Langley](#)
To: [SAC](#)
Subject: help me understand
Date: Friday, June 17, 2022 4:34:02 PM

Help me to understand why we have not been discussing the funding and building of a new facility when the current jail continues to fail. I am guessing that most all of you live and work in relatively pleasant conditions and surroundings, yet since 1996 the conditions of the jail have been continually declared as inadequate, unsafe, overcrowded and needing constant repair by many agencies including: Bellingham fire department, Bellingham buildings and codes, numerous committees that have been created to look into jail facilities, and The National Institute of Corrections.

If you look at the time line (it only runs through 2012) that I asked to be sent out, you will see all that has gone on in previous years to get a new, safe, humane, cost effective jail and related facilities built. If you were really concerned about the conditions in which the correction deputies work and the living conditions that the inmates encounter, and in order to provide the education, resources, mental and medical help that some of them need, you would be pressing to get a new facility built.

The county has spent tens of thousands of dollars to get the best design and plans for a new facility and yet it keeps getting put on hold "until next year". I have no problem considering helpful and needed programs for current and future applications but what about those who are currently being held and working in a jail that is overcrowded and "leaking and creaking" as described by the Bellingham Herald in 2008.

Please take another look at the timeline that you got and look at the video on the link you were sent.

We have property and a plan that has been researched and studied and discussed and reviewed by numerous committees and professionals. While it is of some interest to hear what the community has to say, they are not the ones working and living in a dungeon-like environment. The Sheriff is responsible for the jail facility and its operation, it would seem that he should have an important say in what is needed.

Please help me understand why you want to put off moving forward on getting the money to start construction as soon as possible so we can get people out of that overcrowded, deteriorating environment, have room to once again provide the programs they need and be good stewards of the taxpayers' money.

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Cliff Langley