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**From:** Bill LaFreniere <elderladbill@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 9:22 PM  
**To:** Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Unable to address comments to SAC Jail committee

Bill LaFreniere of N. Bellingham. I had a conversation with one of SAC committee members after I sent a comment to the Whatcom County Sheriff. I was told I could send my comments directly to that committee, but apparently no such line of communication exists for the public. So I am sending this message to all of you.

You have made up this committee from all of the various opposing contributors with the expectation that a viable solution to our jail problem can be worked out. This is why we are in the situation we now find ourselves. You put a group of people together like that, they obviously are not going to agree on anything. The people that have more important things to do with their time are going to back down to the more radical elements. It is human nature.

Here are some facts. Whatcom County has already purchased a parcel of property in Ferndale to build the jail on. That was a controversial purchase, with someone involved in the purchase profiting handsomely by that purchase. To the extent that the funds spent cannot be recovered if the property was sold. Since we have it, lets use it.

Several years ago, a similar group of stakeholders came up with decisions that led us to the present mess. Can we learn from that mistake and try not to repeat it? The committee originally agreed on a concrete cell-block design. I believe the county executive had a copy of those plans in the office. Then there were a few people that decided that people did not need to be incarcerated. They eventually won out. Rather than let that happen again, lets take a look at the jail plans from a few years ago. If the main cell block structure was recreated with a minimum of auxillary use rooms and structures, we could have something that could be built in an inexpensive manner on the existing Ferndale property. There is extra room on the property for other structures later. Now if we get creative and were to build two of those structures, we could lease one of the buildings out to Federal immigration. Since we already have the property, we could get enough from that lease to pay the full cost of the two structures. Then we would not have to go back to the voters and try to get them to give up more tax money. That Seattle contractor that came up with the bid? Forget him. Set one of the Sheriff deputies up as the contractor and hire all local people at the prevailing wage. With your help, we can GET IT DONE. Thanks, Bill.

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