

From: [Mike](#)
To: [SAC](#)
Subject: Justice Project - Incarceration & Systems Feedback
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 12:35:53 PM

Thank you for seeking input and allowing me to comment. I did attend the listening session and made comments, but I would like to provide more cogent feedback.

First, I recognize that you have a difficult task which has been impacted by the recent staff shortages in local law enforcement. These staff shortages have had a negative impact on public safety and our sense of well being. However, in my mind these staff shortages are a separate or sub issue and hopefully a shorter term problem to the greater issue of managing public safety.

It appears obvious to me that our current jail is inadequate and a replacement is needed. For me your decision or recommendation needs to be on the right balance between incarceration and services. I would like to offer these additional comments:

1. I'm not convinced that incarceration is an effective deterrent to many individuals currently in our system. I believe this is particularly true of individuals experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues.
2. While I suspect there are a variety of reasons why individuals voted against the past two jail levies, I believe a large part of the failure was because the public wanted to see more equitable alternatives to incarceration. I think this was a strong public message which I still support. I also believe that increased alternatives to incarceration will, in the long run, be more fiscally responsible (save money) and have a positive impact on a wide variety of social issues and the individuals involved.

Thank you for allowing me to comment and thank you for your work on this topic.

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