

From: [Riveters Collective](#)
To: [SAC; Barry Buchanan](#)
Cc: [Satpal Sidhu](#)
Subject: SAC appreciation
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 8:01:17 AM

Dear SAC Chair Buchanan and committee members,

On behalf of the Riveters Collective, we appreciate the thoughtful and impressive plan presented in the Whatcom County Justice Project. We applaud the vision, values and process of the project. These underscore the interrelationship between investments in community services to prevent and reduce incarceration and the documented need for a safe, humane detention facility designed to reduce recidivism.

We noticed that this time the process for presenting a ballot measure for a new facility includes a plan for transparent and inclusive community input. We especially appreciate your outreach to marginalized communities and to those with lived experiences in the system. The SAC also conducted community outreach by including constituents in the needs assessment through the survey and town hall. The jail video, the outline of gaps in online materials, and the survey options informed participants about interlocking factors before, during, and after incarceration that will contribute to successfully reshaping our criminal justice system. Your efforts have clarified for us how the new jail is part of a larger mission to improve the justice system. The SAC's efforts to listen, communicate and educate our community should make a difference in the passage of any new ballot measure.

We commend and thank Chairman Buchanan for his prompt response and generosity in offering his time to address our questions about the SAC's plan and process. We look forward to seeing your needs assessment report and the published survey results.

Sincerely,

Justice System Committee
Riveters Collective