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**COMMUNITY PLANNING &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Joshua Cummings, Director

*Creating Solutions for Our Future*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Thurston County Planning Commission

**FROM:** Shannon Shula, Associate Planner

**DATE:** March 18, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Development Code Docket Amendment A-9: Planned Industrial Park District – Follow-up to Grand Mound Open House held on March 7th, 2020.

This work session will focus on the poster and presentation given at the community meeting and a summary of the comments received from the public.

**Background**

At the meeting held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Planning Commission recommended staff conduct an open house with community residents prior to requesting a public hearing. Staff included this item at the Open House held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Rochester High School which also included information on the Grand Mound Subarea Plan and Transportation Study.

**Open House and Public Comment**

There were approximately 110 people in attendance at the open house event held on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The community meeting had three areas of focus: Grand Mound Transportation Study, Grand Mound Subarea Plan, and the Development Code Amendment for the Planned Industrial Zoning District. There were several posters with staff at each to answer any questions and a 30-minute presentation was given by staff and the consultant regarding the projects.

Staff received 43 comments regarding the amendment. All comments received were opposed to the proposed amendment and prisons in general. Some comments noted concern about the proximity to schools and there were a few permit and logistical related questions. Two letters were received in opposition to incarceration facilities in Thurston County and Washington State. A flyer with information about the Maple Lane facility and general opposition to Women's Prisons was also attached to the comment board. All comments are summarized and included in the attachment.

**Attachment A: Grand Mound Open House Public Comments 03/07/2020**

2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, Washington 98502 (360) 786-5490/FAX (360) 754-2939  
TTY/TDD call 711 or 1-800-833-6388 Website: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting)

Unique ID	Date	Commenter Name	Source	Formal Comment Period?	Topic	Type of Comment	Summary	County Response	Status
1	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Proximity to schools is a concern of(?) prison/prerelease	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
2	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Explore and put money toward restorative options and mental health support rather than increasing incarceration.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
3	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	For Prison not in my neighborhood	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
4	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	No prison in Grand Mound	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
5	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Policy Question	Is the PID zone in the Dept. of Commerce "opportunity zone"	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
6	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Think more creatively than a prison to solve the root causes if our community issues. Prisons for not support rehabilitation.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
7	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Maple Lane was initially a school, this does not translate to zoning for a prison.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
8	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	As a Thurston County resident, I want resources put into social services, health care and housing for low income people instead of prisons! Deal with the root causes of incarceration!	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
9	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	No new women's prison. End the mass incarceration of human beings.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
10	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Policy Question	State law adjacent to elementary school? Minimum Distance?	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
11	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	No on prison/prerelease. Where would these people go after release?	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
12	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Policy Question	Isn't Maple Lane within 2 miles of the Rochester Primary/Elementary & possibly HS. (prerelease facility)	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
13	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	The proposed code change to 20.27.5 to allow less distance from schools and residences for prisons etc. - is sneaky and disingenuous. Such facilities should not be in a dense growth area. The community is opposed.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement

14	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	We don't want a prison so close to a school.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
15	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Building a prison will not benefit the local community or economy. Research has shown that prisons become a source of cheap local labor.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
16	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Why are we investing in a new prison when incarceration has not proven effective at addressing the underlying trauma that leads to most crimes by women?	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
17	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Opposed to prisons near many schools, 3 adjacent. Maple Lane used to be a school.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
18	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	This prison will harm women and trans folks and stifle economic development in Thurston County.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
19	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	DOC have budget to transport people? People released may not get picked up, walk down road and close to school.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
20	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	No. I oppose the plan to build a new prison - that \$ could be used for something else.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
21	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Prisons will only turn away economic growth.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
22	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Policy Question	When at end of sentence, where are they released from? Do they have the option to release here in Rochester?	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
23	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Let's dream bigger than a prison, support our local community, keep us safe in a way that prisons never can. No prison at Maple Lane.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
24	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	More rehabilitation - community involvement to come up with creative solutions for rehabilitation. Opposed to prison.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
25	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Adult prison is very different juvenile facility.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
26	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	No state prison permitting (or amending the language).	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement

27	3/7/2020	Thomas, Thurston County	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	No new women's prison! Incarceration is inhumane and unhealthy for communities. Invest in in our people, don't lock them up!	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
28	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	The prison project violates the school proximity requirement. Additionally expanding prisons is cruel. We don't need more prisons. The project will destroy the lives of the prisoners and hurt the Grand Mound community.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
29	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Changed use of prison for the type of prisoners. Danger to the community and kids.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
30	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	I understand that this presentation was a way to get community feedback. However, are you presenting this information to the women in the prisons they will be greatly affected to and deserve a say. I personally oppose the prison.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
31	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Very opposed to Maple Lane correctional facility expansion. It would be nice to see alternative options such as early prison release programs for inmates, investing in currently existing facilities to more accommodating to inmates. I see this expansion proposal meeting a lot of resistance with our community.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
32	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Not in a residential areas (prisons).	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
33	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	I oppose this prison. We voted and 19 people raised their voices against the prison. Only 3 want it.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
34	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	No. Not in residential. Not near 3 schools.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
35	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	I opposed the Maple Lane prison expansion. This is bad for our county and please expect a lot of resistance. Stop now and save money. No more prisons.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
36	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	If Washington used a gender-responsive classification tool, we would not need another medium security prison. Our current toll over classifies women.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
37	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	New prison is a multimillion dollar project to solve problems that can be solved by just changing DOC policy. Expensive and inhumane.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
38	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	Stop caging women.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement
39	3/7/2020		Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	This facility ensures that more women will be locked up.	Comment received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement

							Comment	
40	3/7/2020	Open House	No	PID Amendment	Against	I oppose the plan to create a new women's prison. I hope Maple Lane can be used for something else that has a greater benefits for the community.	received and recorded.	Public Participation/Engagement

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of the land in Thurston County for an incarcerating facility of any kind. This use of land would not only be fiscally irresponsible, but also throwing money at increasing incarceration when there are far better and more effective ways of solving this problem. As a Thurston County resident, I strongly oppose this land use.

Comment received and recorded. Public Participation/Engagement

60 3/7/2020 Anthony Zarasoza Open House No PID Amendment Against

(Flyer) Stop Maple Lane! Did you know that Washington wants to open a New Women's Prison? We won't let them open it. The women's prison is being framed as a "humane", re-entry-focused facility that will solve the cruel practice of overcrowding women's prisons. But we know that caging humans is inherently inhumane. The solution to overcrowding is releasing prisoners and investing in transformative justice, not building more prisons. If they build more beds then they will fill more beds. We must seize all opportunities to disrupt the opening of the prison, beginning with blocking the DOC's attempt to change Thurston County's zoning laws. Please like our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stopmaplelane/>) in order to receive updates and join us in our work.

Comment received and recorded. Public Participation/Engagement

61 3/7/2020 Open House No PID Amendment Against

(Letter) We strongly oppose this proposal. We are committed to working with communities to end mass incarceration in our State, which has for decades been particularly devastating to low-income communities of color. One of the primary ways we can work together to reduce mass incarceration in Washington is by restricting the building or expansion of prisons. Not only are these institutions a costly expenditure of scarce state and community resources, but they are also ineffective at reducing recidivism, rehabilitating persons who are confined there, or improving community safety. Approval of zoning amendments to allow for creation of a new prison in Grand Mound are not likely to yield different results; they will only serve to increase incarceration and further remove the people housed there from their communities. We recognize the importance that land use decisions play in shaping the state prison system, as they are one of the first dominos that must fall for a prison to be constructed. This is particularly true in this instance. We understand that, while the state has approved in its capital budget approximately \$4.3 million for the proposed Maple Lane Corrections Center, complications in securing building and occupancy permits have created a delay. Furthermore, we understand that Thurston County needs to change the zoning ordinance to allow for the facility to be zoned as a prison and allow for an increased occupancy rate at the facility. Accordingly, we believe there is an opportunity for the Commission to take a step back and consider the broader implications of this proposal before deciding whether to include it in your agenda. In taking account of these implications, we would ask that you seek input from a more comprehensive cross-section of stakeholders and communities that will be impacted by this decision, including people in prisons and their family members. Moreover, we ask that you take time to more closely examine the impacts that the construction of a prison has on the local community and the communities of those who are housed in prisons. In summary, we ask that you choose not to add the DOC zoning request to your 2020 agenda. Thank you in advance for consideration of our request.

Comment received and recorded. Public Participation/Engagement

62 3/7/2020 Sarah Nagy, Staff Attorney, Columbia Legal Services Open House No PID Amendment Against