

January 14, 2013

RE: Update on the City's Public Safety Building; Community Meeting January 31, 2013

Dear Neighbor,

Since City officials contacted you and held a community meeting last summer about the Public Safety Building, design for the building has continued and a second community open house will be held January 31 to provide an update. You are encouraged to attend the open house to be held at Kirkland Municipal Court, 11515 NE 118th Street, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. to speak with staff and design consultants.

As a follow up to the first community meeting, we offer the responses to concerns expressed regarding topics such as building, traffic, and construction safety..

**How will traffic be impacted from the new use as a Public Safety Building?**

A traffic trip generation and parking analysis were completed in August 2012. The number of vehicle trips and use of parking spaces were compared from the previous use of a retail warehouse to the future use of a police department, court, and jail. The study revealed that more traffic was generated from the retail use than would be generated from the public safety building use. However, in recent years actual traffic volumes for the retail warehouse appear to be lower than what would be expected for that size (102,000 square feet) of a building. Traffic volumes for the Kirkland Municipal Court are expected to remain at the same level once court services are relocated from their current location on NE 118<sup>th</sup> Street to the new building. An increase in traffic volumes may occur during police personnel shift changes which will occur at certain times but over short durations.

**How will construction staging and construction traffic be managed?**

Construction staging will be limited to the parking lot on the property. During construction, an increase in traffic related to the work is likely. There is a limited amount of work, such as utility connections, within NE 118<sup>th</sup> Street that may require short term road closures; however emergency and pedestrian access will be maintained at all times. If road closures are required, detour information will be displayed in advance. Any work within the public right-of-way will require a traffic control plan approved by the City.

**How will noise be minimized from the indoor firearms range?**

The range will be carefully located within the building to minimize disturbance to other occupants within the building. The range would be separated from the exterior by solid concrete wall panels and a new roof composed of insulating panels on concrete poured over a metal pan. This design has provided very effective noise isolation in similar buildings; most allowing them to operate virtually unnoticed by neighbors. Further, within the range itself, all major surfaces would be clad with noise reducing ballistic rubber tile which provides tested acoustical benefit.

**What safety measures will be in place regarding jail operations?**

Jail safety and the transport of misdemeanor inmates is an important factor in the decision to combine corrections and court services within the same building. Currently, it is necessary to transport inmates from the Police Department located at City Hall to the Municipal Court. At the new location, there is no longer the need for vehicle transport. This provides a more safe and efficient process.

People will be released from their jail commitments between 7:00-8:00 in the morning. The people being released know the time and date that they will be released so the majority of them have rides waiting to pick them up. For those that do not have a ride, releasing them in the morning will make it easier to get public transportation.

There will be multiple security features throughout the Court, Police and Jail. These features will include metal detectors, state of the art camera systems, high security doors and windows, and coded security passes that only give people the ability to access certain areas and restricts them from others. There are also redundant security systems in the jail in case the facility would lose power or have some type of computer failure. The other advantage to having the court, police and jail all in one building is it allows for very fast response time from the Police Department to the other areas in case there is a problem. Simply having uniformed officers available in the area provides significant security.

**Can a crosswalk across NE 118<sup>th</sup> Street be installed for easier access to Fred Meyer?**

The request for a crosswalk across NE 118<sup>th</sup> Street has been added to the Capital Improvement Program's list of suggested crosswalks. The request will be evaluated based upon city standards for crosswalk installation including lighting, access and configuration of the roadway.

On February 19, the City Council will receive a project update including a tentative timeline to bid, award the bid, and issue a notice to proceed with the construction of the building. It is anticipated that construction will begin in mid-2013 and take up to 12 months to complete. For project updates, please visit [www.kirklandwa.gov/publicsafetybuilding](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/publicsafetybuilding) or contact Noel Hupprich, P.E., Capital Improvement Program, Public Works Department, at 425-587-3829 or [nhupprich@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:nhupprich@kirklandwa.gov).

We appreciate your interest in staying informed and involved and we look forward to being your neighbor.

Sincerely,

The Public Safety Building Project Team