At some point, Ray Baribeau and Marvin Wolff expand their influence. Ray Baribeau teams up with another member of the Sheriff’s Advisory Group, Doralee Booth. They both were members of the official Jail Planning Task Force, and now they merge together into the new Public Safety Now advocacy group. This group is a bit amorphous, although it seems to be composed largely of vendors and Sheriff’s office staff, past campaign chairs or contributors, or like Marvin Wolff, they represent certain groups or non-profits in the community who are strategically selected from certain areas of the County.

This Public Safety Now group seems to be a specially selected group, mostly coordinated through Ray Baribeau with Marvin Wolff’s cooperation and support. Others work in tandem, in collaboration with the Sheriff and other Sheriff’s Office staff.

This group now serves as a type of bridge to the community. It is like an inside lobby group...a “hidden” or “shadow” advocacy group that is not accountable to taxpayers or to policymakers. It created a method for communication and public relations efforts to move information smoothly from the Executive Branch through to a privileged group of community non-profit leaders and organizations without impediment.

Documents show that Baribeau and Wolff control the flow of messaging and information by strategic planning, marketing and outreach. Baribeau is a key organizer of public events such as fairs, debates, launch events, social media campaigns, video production and websites with well-planned campaigns. These efforts seem to have been funded through vendor donations as well as by individuals.
The “Public Safety Now” (PSN) Insiders Create Tangled Webs

Sample e-mails and minutes show the membership string, connections and marketing strategies employed from 2012 forward into 2015 campaign.

Shows that the Sheriff, his staff, Ray Baribeau and the Public Safety Now advocacy group are collaborating together with jail vendors to expand jail industries, working together to build the campaign and enroll the public and candidates in building the big jail outside the County – while the Jail Planning process was still in development, and outside of full public disclosure.

- Doralee Booth – Member of Jail Planning Task Force, Sheriff’s Advisory Group
- Mark Shintaffer – WCSO Support Foundation Board Member
- Ray Baribeau – Jail Planning Task Force, Co-Chair Prison Fellowship of Whatcom County, Sheriff’s Advisory Group, Co-Chair of 2015 PAC – Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail Now
- Bruce Ayers – Whatcom County Council Candidate, Sheriff Elfo Campaign Chair
- Marvin Wolff – Sheriff’s Advisory Group and WCSO Support Foundation Board, Vendor
- Richard Maneval - Law & Justice Council
- Isaac Colgan – video, social media, web
- Several Deputies and Staff at Whatcom County email address
Public Safety NOW... Build a Safe Jail (PSN) Minutes... Thursday, June 7, 2012
7:00 am @ Arlis's Restaurant Meeting Room
1525 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham

The meeting was called to order by Bruce @ 7:10 am.

Members present: Joan Dow, Bruce, Paul H. Richard, Wendy, Mark, Constantine, Ray, Doralee, Teresa, and Isaac.

The Minutes for May 17, 2012 were accepted as written.

Old Business:

Re-cap of activities: Update by Bruce for Sheriff Elfo... The Executive is committed to moving things forward regarding the new jail.
- RFP for land acquisition went out last Tuesday
- RFQ to hire a jail planner went out on Friday for 6 weeks
- Jack Louws, Sheriff, Jeff Parks and Bruce toured SCORE... the Executive was engaged throughout the entire tour.

Council members contacted - PSN members spoke to Ken Mann and Kathy Kurshner since our last meeting. The County has moved forward faster in the last 45 days than in the past 10 years. Our facilitation and support is helping.

Thank you to Isaac and Terry for the excellent production of the "Penny video." Isaac noted that any referrals will help pay for future work.

Bruce and Constantine met with John Servais (Political activist - Fairhaven) and answered questions regarding the new jail.

Speaking opportunities:
- North Sound Democrats - June 8
- Republican Women (Joan Dow) - July 24

It was noted that speakers need to pitch the buildsafejail.com website at these events and encourage donations.

Hmm... With all this hyper-activity with the vendors and public relations... who is taking care of the inmates, the overcrowding, the maintenance and emergency conditions and civil rights issues for the taxpayers?
Addendum 2 dated 04-17-2016 to Noble Cause Corruption Complaint #1122 filed 11-30-2015 – by Joy Gilfilen

Media Committee Report – Constantine

- Teresa Erickson accepted the position of Letters to the Editor Coordinator and will work for Constantine.
- Isaac is willing to edit all letters if sent to him.
- Immediate letters in support of the Executive and County Council in their efforts to move the new jail forward should be written.
- Next Video: We have made the case for a new safe jail. It was agreed upon that the next video should focus on the theme of “Endless Possibilities.” The new jail should reflect the culture and values of our community. The video should educate the public regarding the law and justice system… why people go to jail. We discussed having a judge to help speak to these issues in the video. A message to educate the public regarding Whatcom County’s alternative programs and the need for more space to offer alternative programs might be part of this video as well. Whatcom County is second only to King County in Washington State for offering alternative programs.

PSN Minutes 6-7-12.doc

- Facebook: It was agreed upon that it is premature to have a facebook administrator. Thank you Terry for offering the skills of Tara and for your willingness to pay for this support. We anticipate we will need this help in the future.

Fund raising: Our budget is $10K
- We discussed asking for corporate donations. It was suggested that we send a letter to correction vendors. Bruce will immediately send a letter to Wendy asking for a vendors list. Public interest groups should also be solicited.
- Volunteers are funding this effort so far.

Business cards and promotion:
- Our new business cards were handed out. Paul H. reminded us that they would do no good if left in our pockets!
- We need to pace ourselves and keep focused. Always keep looking for new weekly info for the website.
- Ray offered the big PSN signs for speaking events.
- Check with Sheriff about information/participation in the Sheriff’s booth at the Lynden Fair.
- Consider info promotion at community events… parades.
- The need for Sheriff Elfo to be at all speaking events was discussed. No definite conclusion was reached but some felt that with the “Penny video” several PSN speakers could handle the job unless the presence of Sheriff Elfo was requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 21st at the Arlis Restaurant at 7:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Doralee Booth, Secretary
PSN Marketing Strategy to Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
Regarding Effectiveness of Fire Video & Alternatives Video

Hi Isaac and all...

Isaac, thanks so much for the excellent new video. These are powerful little snippets as we witnessed with the fire video at the Birch bay Chamber meeting this week. People were saying..."I had no idea that our jail was like this! A wonderful way to get our message out to Whatcom County!"

Doralee

On Aug 30, 2012, at 11:17 AM, Isaac Colgan wrote:

Hi Public Safety Now,

The video Alternatives is now available for you to preview. I welcome your comments. Please do not share this video with the public at this time. There may be some final adjustments.

Watch video here: http://youtu.be/DkJ6NMleC80

Isaac Colgan
Addendum 2 dated 04-17-2016 to Noble Cause Corruption Complaint #1122 filed 11-30-2015 by Joy Gilfillen

More PSN Emails Showing Patterns of Campaign Development since 2013

Public Safety NOW... Build a Safe Jail (PSN) Minutes... Thursday, June 30, 2013
7:00 am @ Arla's Restaurant Meeting Room
1525 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham

Meeting began at 7:05 AM

Attending: Wendy Jones; Bruce Ayers; Andrew Lamb; Richard Maneal; Paul Harris; Mark Shintaffer; Caleb Erickson; Theresa Erickson; Guest Clayton Peete (who is running for Bellingham City Council seat from Ward 4 against Pink Verges)

Wendy Jones gave us an update on the recent events at the public meetings. At the June 12 Ferndale Planning Commission Meeting no members of the public showed up. At the June 17 City Council Meeting a proposal to put the proposed new jail site in Ferndale to an advisory vote of the citizens got nowhere. Police Chief Knapp made an excellent presentation to the council explaining the value to Ferndale residents of having the new jail in Ferndale. She also said that a new contract was given to DLR to determine what to do with the old jail and somewhere to stage 50 to 60 offenders close to the courtrooms.

Theresa asked about the report of hazardous waste on the adjacent parcel of land. Wendy said that as part of the EIS update a geotech company has been hired to drill into the soils and test the samples to determine that no contamination is can leech into the proposed jail site.

Bruce stated that during the June 4th DLR interim progress report to county council that he was disappointed that DLR didn’t have detailed supporting analysis for their bed projection chart. He said that it seems like a number of beds had been predetermined and the chart was shown to validate that number. Wendy stated that the council had asked DLR to shorten their planned presentation to 45 minutes and much of the supporting information had to be left out. He then said that Sheriff Elfo had been asked to make a presentation about the new jail process to the Central Democratic meeting in July. Ray suggested that Bill ask to postpone his presentation until after the scheduled August 6th update to county council.

Bruce asked what if a funding proposal goes on the ballot in February, March or April of next year. How can we deal with that?

Mark was asked to tell why he brought Clayton Peete to the meeting. It seems that candidates running for office do not feel that they have the information to be conversant about the new jail process. Either Mark or Clayton said that the process has to show that the proposed bed number was not a “top down” number that became justified by statistical analysis. A discussion ensued and it became apparent that a Candidate Educational Event needed to be held to give all candidates, regardless of their political leanings, information about the process and the on line resources so they can become comfortable talking about the new replacement jail issue at public forums. Bruce suggested that we (PSN) organize this meeting. Ray stated that Jack Louws should explain the process since it is his process. Ray said that he would contact Jack and explain the need and ask him and his working group to be available to explain the process and answer questions from the candidates. It was stated that we should select a facility where the websites with information about the new jail can be accessed and shown to those in attendance. It was decided that an August date after the Lynden Fair would be the best time and Bruce suggested that the church on Bakerview where we held our launch event would be a good venue.
Addendum 2 dated 04/17/2016 to Noble Cause Corruption Complaint #1122 filed 11/30/2015 – by Joy Gillifen

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Subject: RE: FINAL REQUEST- PSN Info Table at Lynden Fair 12 to 17 August
From: Ray Baribeau <ray_baribeau@q.com>
Date: 8/6/2013 7:20 AM
To: Constantine Papadakis <constantine@dirtydanharris.com>, Jason Hentz <jasonhentz@gmail.com>, Caleb Erickson <CErickso@co.whatcom.wa.us>, John Geehan <johnk7qaj@q.com>, Theresa Erickson <taerickson@earthlink.net>, Andrew Lamb <andrew.lamb00@gmail.com>, Terry Terry <tterry1835@aol.com>, Marvin Wolff <mnmwolff@comcast.net>, Paul Myers <phmywhitey@frontier.com>, Wendy Jones <wjones@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Bill Elfo <belfo@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Joan Dow <China@oo.net>, Richard Maneval <richardmaneval@gmail.com>, Bruce Ayers <bruce@bruceayers.com>, Mark Shintafer <mshintafer@hotmail.com>, Isaac Colgan <isaac.colgan@gmail.com>, Don Hansey <DonHansey@comcast.net>, Paul Harris <pnh811@hotmail.com>, Doralee Booth <doraleeb@comcast.net>

Team,

We still need one more volunteer to cover our PSN info table for a week from Friday (the 16th) from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Thank you Theresa for covering the Wednesday evening shift. Ray

| MON 12 AUG | 1:00 TO 5:00 PM | RAY BARIBEAU |
| 5:00 TO 9:00 PM | RICHARD MANEVAL |
| TUES 13 AUG | 1:00 TO 5:00 PM | THERESA ERICKSON |
| 5:00 TO 9:00 PM | BRUCE AYERS |
| WED 14 AUG | 1:00 TO 5:00 PM | RICHARD MANEVAL |
| 5:00 TO 9:00 PM | THERESA ERICKSON |
Buildasafejail.com
2016 Google search shows prior history of marketing actions

buildasafejail Whatcom County

About 55,100 results (0.69 seconds)

Did you mean: buildsafe jail Whatcom County

Whatcom County citizens will get a... - Public Safety Now ...
https://www.facebook.com/PublicSafetyNow/posts/357119004338116
Public Safety Now: Build A Safe Jail - May 11, 2012 - Whatcom County citizens will get a glimpse during this video of one of the liabilities we face the longer we ...

Whatcom County, WA - Official Website | Official Website
www.whatcomcounty.us/ Whatcom County, Washington Official site, with information and links to elected officials, and departments. You’ve visited this page many times. Last visit: 2/14/16

Fire: Public Safety Now - Build a Safe Jail - YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64fA18xb47A
May 10, 2012 - Uploaded by PublicSafetyNow
http://www.buildasafejail.com The Whatcom County Jail Bellingham, Washington has serious fire safety ...

Build a Safe Jail presentation | Whatcom Democrats
www.whatcomdemocrats.com › Events › 2012 › May › May 10, 2012 - 414 W. Bakerview Road Suite 105 (Church at Bakerview) Bellingham, WA. Whatcom County Sheriff presents his vision for a new jail. More info: ...

This 2016 Google search shows that videos as planned in the PSN group were being developed, promoted and aired.

It also shows that the Sheriff was out promoting the Jail to political groups meetings.
Some of these links to PSN Facebook and Websites are defunct as of 2016 – and most links are broken except some YouTube videos used in the 2015 Campaign.
“Public Safety Now Whatcom County” Google Search

03-17-2016 - Yields the following 1st Page Results

Sorry, this page isn’t available
The link you followed may be broken, or the page may have been removed.

These go to the official Whatcom County Website.
You Tube Search for: Public Safety Now Whatcom County

Provides a list of videos produced mostly by Iosac Services, some by Bellingham Herald. When you listen to them, you discover that the PSN videos are using Ray Baribeau’s voiceover, and there is a cohesive link from PSN to the PAC created videos. The videos include interviews of many Whatcom County elected officials, staff along with members of the Public Safety Now advocacy group.

Synopsis of videos:

Alternatives: Top one was about how there was not enough room for more alternatives and jail industry Reentry Programs – which included Ray Baribeau in the film. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDi8TCvP8Dg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDi8TCvP8Dg)

Fire: This staged demonstration shows the risk of a potential fire – including full smoke, photos of dead or wounded people and it highlighted risk, liabilities. It scares people. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64fA18Xb47A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64fA18Xb47A)

Launch: One included a SCORE jail facility official as keynote speaker here in Whatcom County to help promote and launch the campaign for a new jail. They used the Public Safety Now logo as part of the staging during the “Launch Event!” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGwftACs3AM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGwftACs3AM)

Riot: This video about a “riot” that happened in the jail that apparently lasted an hour, while the news film shows reflections of Sheriff’s officials standing around in the background filming the hand held video. Then the pitch from the Sheriff was aired on KOMO TV. The Sheriff testified about the disrepair, danger and showed photos of the chipped concrete and promoted the need to build a new facility. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4q3XeKTqH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4q3XeKTqH8)

Most videos were produced inside the Whatcom County facilities using inmates, staff and County equipment.

They were coordinated with graphics, photos and then urgent sales and marketing messages were delivered by the Sheriff, Chief of Corrections, and other officials and Whatcom County staff. Most were originally designed for the BuildASafeJail.com website, using the Public Safety Now logo and banner.

In 2015 these videos became part of the 2015 Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail Now PAC campaign. Hyperlinked on their Facebook Pages for the WhatcomJail.com and Safe Jail initiatives, this same video producer – Iosac Services - provided social media, marketing and other services to the PAC. People in the videos are part of the Sheriff’s Advisory Group, the Public Safety Now group, and some donated money to the PAC.

The following pages show excerpts from many of these videos...and it shows how staff and marketing intermingled. Links are provided so they can be looked up online and be watched. The pattern of professional and persuasive marketing and story crafting is throughout.
Alternatives: Public Safety Now – Build a Safe Jail Video
Addendum 2 dated 04-17-2016 to Noble Cause Corruption Complaint #1122 filed 11-30-2015 – by Joy Gilfilen

Video 2

Fire: Public Safety Now – Build a Safe Jail Video
(Enactment – Page 1 of 2)

PDC Addendum 2 -0417- 2016Final.docx
Statistics show this is not a fact, and that some of the information given is not in context. This “Launch Event” was for marketing and promoting the jail expansion project. Speaker was the Director of another jail which is now in 2016 having financial challenges. Some information is misleading, confusing and incomplete.
2015 Campaign
- Facilities, Staff & Resources Used

How much of taxpayers’ funds, facilities, staff and resources were used by the County Executive officials to conduct the 2015 sales tax campaign in Whatcom County? How much was really used to produce the Whatcom County Jail Report mailer? It has accumulated over time. Listening to the testimony given to the Whatcom County Council in front of the public on October 27, 2015 it sounds like the entire strategy was pre-meditated and planned by the County Executive and Prosecutor McEachran working with his attorneys (for days).

This indicates they knew they were walking the lines of being illegal and were tactically figuring out exactly how to skirt the law.

DLR and Executive Branch coordinated direct ‘jail industry insider’ strategies for several years before the campaign of 2015. In 2015 the minutes specifically shows that the DLR Group (a jail industry contractor) was paid to organize, craft and produce the mailer - using taxpayers funds, facilities and staff in its development and campaign recommendations.

- In two exclusive meetings with only the critical three departments in attendance...the Sheriff’s office, the Prosecutor’s office, and the Executive’s Office...the minutes show that there was an overt plan to select a campaign and marketing team, to work with the press, and to implement a campaign plan.
- Then collaboration goes online, so there were no more written minutes provided even after a public records request. It appears that these records are missing – at least to the public.

In this summary, there is evidence to show how the Executive Branch supported the campaign strategy using members of the pre-established WSCO Sheriff’s Support Foundation and its blog, the Sheriff’s Advisory Team, the Public Safety Now group and the insiders Wolff and Baribeau, who then worked together with the newly formed Citizens for a Humane and Safe Jail Now PAC. Documents indicate some of these activities were conducted using County taxpayers facilities and resources.

Documented examples include:
1) DLR Group Minutes/ Calendar/Campaign Actions/Costs
2) Odd Press Behavior
3) Commercialized Press Tours
4) Northern Light Newspaper Tour
5) Kiwanis Group Tour and Newsletter Reports
6) Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail Now PAC
7) Birch Bay “Community” Debate

Evidence shows the campaign was conducted under the umbrella of and with the active approval of the County Executive and Prosecutor. The Sheriff’s office used facilities and resources to further the initiatives of the Sheriff’s office that were not publicly known or approved by the Whatcom County Council. Using insider bias and extraordinary privileges they bent rules to coordinate, fund, conduct and promote the Proposition 2015-1 Sales Tax campaign without full disclosure to the Council and without transparency to the voters.
In the following excerpts of two sets of minutes from the DLR Group records, the evidence is congruent with the prior verbal testimony given by the Prosecutor and the County Executive right after the mailer was delivered and just prior to election day. The mailer content and style was pre-meditated – the Prosecutor clearly said that he had studied and worked with his staff for days to approve the design and content. What they excluded in their testimony is that the rest of the campaign strategies were being carried out as they were testifying to their innocence. In the following pages it shows that the strategic plans were executed, even if the records of the subsequent DLR and Executive branch meetings are missing.

Exclusive: Notice all attendees were from the Executive Branch – specifically the Sheriff’s office, Prosecutor’s office and the Executive Branch or from the jail industry contractor, the DLR Group.
There is no discussion about what happens if it does pass to meet the needs of the community, or the immediate needs of the jail inmates. No discussion of discussing the jail taxes already paid.

Bellingham Herald offered the opportunity for OpEd pieces over the next few months. Sheriff Elfo shall prepare a document for next issue on Friday 6/12.

Justin Stranzl detailed the “20-60-20 approach” where typical populations have approximately 20% of votes that say yes, and 20% that say no regardless of the literature or information provided. Sixty % may be predisposed but are willing to listen to each stance. These are the people who need to be talked to.

Upcoming Schedule Topics:
18 weeks until October 16 (ballots are released) – Public Outreach work shall be complete.

- Bi-weekly leadership team meeting – Review with staff and County administration
  - Work to create a mailer and make the unified voice.

Tyler Schroeder shall identify potential local communication companies to help with the outreach to be a sub-consultant to DLR Group.
Whatcom County shall confirm the appropriate communication the team may have with the PAC following the issue being confirmed on the ballot based on voter outreach regulations.

Sheriff Elfo is the lead decision-maker from the County team for the campaign. He will identify the key players that shall create the PAC. Tyler shall remain the point of contact to DLR Group. Tyler shall address responses to taxes questions, and Sheriff Elfo will address responses to operations.

Obvious planning was to create and then coordinate with the PAC. Note: The Citizens for a Humane and Safe Jail Now pack filed with the PDC shortly thereafter. There in never any discussion of meeting with any adversaries or striving to solve citizen concerns.

Justin Stranzl

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**Meeting Notes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>July 2, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To</td>
<td>Tyler Schroeder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From</td>
<td>Erica Loynd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Whatcom County Executive's Conference Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Whatcom County Adult Corrections Facilities and Sheriffs HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project No.</td>
<td>73-15102-01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Attendees     | Jack Louvs, Whatcom County Executive  
                Tyler Schroeder, Whatcom County Special Projects Manager  
                Jeff Parks, Whatcom County Sheriff Office  
                Erica Loynd, DLR Group  
                Justin Stranzl, DLR Group |
| Purpose       | Public Outreach Progress Meeting |

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**DLR Group**

Architecture | Engineering | Planning | Interiors

51 University Street
Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98101

o: 206/461-6000  
F: 206/461-6049
Calendar of events was reviewed. Sheriff and County Executive have been attending community meetings as they come up to share the information. Community organizations shall be updated for all months of the calendar as a resource to anyone that intends to attend meetings. Updated calendar with deadlines for measure are added to calendar attached to these minutes to reflect new information. City groups shall also be included (approximately 6-8 per month).

Physical mailers will be provided to voters in two mailers. Mailers will be similar in appearance. Mailers will use information from survey as to the topics most relevant to the voters. Layout from Skagit County mailer is acceptable format.

Initial message for the mailer may be “Safe Home. Safe Community. Vote Yes for the Jail.”

Whatcom County executive team will continue collaboration with Bellingham Herald.

Scope of work for additional community consultant shall not be pursued at this time.

Survey questions shall be revised to respond to Whatcom County issues. Questions shall have a maximum of 4-5 options to choose between. Information that is requested in particular:

- Are you a resident of Bellingham or not?
- Prioritize the issues of programs & services (essential treatment, mental health, chemical health, diversion), Safety for staff and inmates, space/capacity, and modern/efficient design.
- Are you supportive of the measure if Bellingham doesn’t fully participate in the jail?

Meeting Minutes / Page 2

Survey will take 3-6 weeks to complete and provide final report. Design and message of mailer will occur immediately following. Questions shall be confirmed by July 10 to start survey on July 14.

Action Items

Next phone call meeting is scheduled for July 20. Biweekly meetings will be confirmed if necessary.

Survey Questions to WC by July 10. Justin Stranzl
CAMPAIGNING IS COMPLETE.

NO ADDITIONAL EVENTS.
These minutes and calendar clearly show the deliberate and exclusive collaboration between the DLR Group, the Sheriff, the County Executive, and the Prosecutor’s office:

- The minutes show they are developing a full press marketing, production, and speaking campaign to pass the jail tax.
- The Citizens for a Humane and Safe Jail Now was created shortly thereafter this team assigned that task to Bill Elfo.
- The PAC’s Co-Chairs and Coaches and many of the contributors were already working behind the scenes through the Sheriff’s office, the Sheriff’s Advisory Group, the Public Safety Now group and the WCSO Support Foundation to promote the jail.
- The campaign then was conducted through the auspices of Marvin Wolff, the insider from the jail industry together with Ray Baribeau the insider from within the Sheriff’s staff.
- Blog posts, websites and e-mails show that press releases were produced from the Sheriff’s office, written and/or edited by Marvin Wolff, and in cooperation with the Bellingham Herald, the Northern Lights, the Sheriff’s Foundation Blog and also normally.

The mailer was not a fair and unbiased fact sheet.
Information has already been submitted to the PDC from this author and others regarding the mailer. This additional documentation shows how:

- This Executive Branch and jail industry group deliberated for hours and days about what to include in the mailer – incurring both hard and soft costs of facilities, staff time and resources.

- They chose specifically what financial information to include or exclude; and only included that which would compel people to vote for the jail tax (or else they would suffer dire consequences or be shamed for irresponsibility).

- They chose to withhold or obscure critical financial information for the taxpayers regarding the facts that the taxpayers has already passed prior taxes to solve these problems – the taxes of 1999, 2004, and 2008! These taxes were for criminal justice, to build a jail, and for mental health – and these taxes reportedly bring in at least over $7 million a year above the normal revenue! The misdirection of that money has been questioned by taxpayers.

- In the mailer when they claim the jail problems are decades old - they do not discuss the mismanagement. They do not balance that information with an explanation of why the prior taxes did not yield a new jail, and they do not explain how they are planning to manage the inhumane conditions for the next four years until the jail is built. Fair and balanced reporting should provide some reasonable information about this.

- In a balanced report, taxpayers deserve to know this new tax created earmarked forever taxes for a high overhead jail industry expansion facility that is spawning a whole new economy. They deserved to know there were fiscally smart restorative economic options that had not been discussed in any public forums, and that the trends in incarceration and in crimes rates had been dropping for years.
Odd ‘Press’ Behavior – Bellingham Herald

The DLR Minutes say they will ‘continue collaboration with Bellingham Herald’. Thereafter, the following things happened:

- The Sheriff and the Executive received multiple opportunities to write Public Opinion pieces
- The jail tax got quality coverage from the press in news articles, in council debates
- The Herald writers produced special pieces where they were inside the jail, showing the disrepair, the inmates, graffiti and more in photographs
- Not once did they interview the Restorative Community Coalition – the one non-profit organization that had been consistently and repeatedly standing up against the jail expansion, and against the jail tax. They effectively shunned and gave no press to that organization during the campaign.
- The Herald ultimately gave endorsements for their campaigns and then for the sales tax, and scathingly criticized the County Executive opposition candidate who was opposing the jail.

Most dramatically: The Bellingham Herald shut down its popular Politics Blog on August 5, 2015 – just before the political season!

Immediately after the primary election; and before the General Election the Politics Blog was suddenly shut down, immediately deleting the stored and valuable comments in the Herald that had to do with the Jail Initiative, the Charter Initiatives, the coal and other political issues that would all be coming up in the General Election.

Is it coincidental? The Bellingham Herald also chose not to accept any letters to the editor after Oct 27, eight days prior to the General Election. This means that:

1) the ballot mailing went out
2) The Jail Tax mailer was sent ....and then...
3) Letters to the editor could not be submitted and special election rules apply.

Election letters deadline

Oct. 27 at midnight is the deadline for letters to the editor making recommendations in the general election.
Letters criticizing other candidates will not be published and our 200-word and 30-day rules apply to election letters.
Please include your mailing address and a daytime phone number for verification.
Submit letters online at tricityherald.com or by email to letters@tricityherald.com. You can also send a letter to 333 W. Canal Drive, Kennewick, 99336
Commercialized Group & Press Tours inside Jail
Organized and hosted by PAC Co-Chair, Ray Baribeau

In this case, the PAC Campaign Co-Chair Ray Baribeau set up tours of the jail with special press and with organizations; gaining the campaign extra leverage and publicity to help promote the jail tax.

Used Facilities / Photo / Staff to Promote the Jail Sales Tax:

This post on the Safe Jail Website shows a photo taken inside Whatcom County Jail, advertising the jail tours given by the Co-Chair of the Citizens for a Humane Jail Now PAC. Baribeau is the ‘insider’ talked about in Evidence Summary 1 and 2. Baribeau is wearing a Sheriff’s shirt with the insignia on it. This is the same photo given to the Northern Light news reporter who toured the jail.

This post in Facebook, then crosslinks right back to Whatcomjail.com/tours page (the PAC official website), where a Northern Lights article on the jail shows how Baribeau invited him and others to participate in a press and group tour where the staff were present to promote the jail tax.
4 Northern Light Newspaper Tour featured on WhatcomJail.com special Tab called Tours

As evident in the Website posting and in the article published, the tour was orchestrated by Ray Baribeau. The campaign used facilities, photos and messaging to promote the jail. Then, the article and photos are in turn used on the WhatcomJail.com website to promote the jail tax/plan:

See Whatcom County Jail for yourself.

Find out why there will be a catastrophic loss of life in the event of a fire. You will see the one little room used for jail programs and the place where inmates tore an air vent out of the crumbling walls during a 2013 riot. Meet some of the deputies and volunteers that have to work in these conditions.

TO TOUR JAIL
email Ray Baribeau
or call (360) 752-1712

Prop 2015-1 to fund a new jail has failed

Read more here...
Addendum 2 dated 04-17-2016 to Noble Cause Corruption Complaint #1122 filed 11-30-2015 – by Joy Gilfilen

“most of the solitary cells, which by design are meant to keep antisocial or violent offenders away from the population, have been modified to house two or more.”

“It provided the information I needed to decide to vote in favor of the jail.”

“We come across a stack of thin mattresses resting in long plastic trays. These trays are called “boats,” and they’re used when the jail is over capacity and inmates need to sleep on the floor. The mattresses are thin, and most are torn at the seams and spewing wads of cotton.”

“While I wish we never needed jails, I know that we do.”

I found the jail tour very enlightening and can clearly see the need for expanded facilities.

If kitchen and laundry facilities matched the actual number of inmates, more inmates would have the opportunity to work while they are in jail. This would be very beneficial.

While I wish we never needed jails, I know that we do. Ours isn’t safe or adequate for the purpose in which it is being used.

See the Print article below that is filled with media approval to pass the jail tax.

In the article, the tour operator seems to stress the disrepair and violence. It is obvious in the kind of language used by the officers and then repeated by the author: the obvious focus on the disrepair and tattered conditions seems false, for what does it really cost the County to do a paint job on the door, to get rid of graffiti, or get a better couch in the break room? This is normal maintenance.

Question: Since it will take at least another four years to build a new jail even if the sales tax passes – was this a deliberately staged tour? It makes it appear that the County is broke (which it is not). Does the County really not have the money in operations to replace critical floor mats? Or is this a deception to guilt the taxpayers into believing they have not paid enough...that we need to pass a sales tax just to get new floor mats? Example phrase:

Our tour guide was Ray Baribeau. Baribeau is an associate chaplain at the jail. He’s been working with inmates for most of his adult life. He’s pleasant and unassuming, but beneath the genial surface is genuine frustration at the poor quality of the facility.

“There are two things you pray for when you enter this building,” Baribeau said. “No earthquakes and no fires.”
A tour of Whatcom County Jail

Story and photos by Steve Gunll

While finding funding for the new Whatcom County Jail facility has been a contentious point amongst county legislators, the one thing county officials agree on is that a new jail is necessary.

The current jail was born out of date; built in 1983, it complied with state standards in place since the 1960s. The facility was originally built to hold 148 inmates, but remodels and retrofits over the last three decades have raised the bed count to 280. And that’s still not enough; on average, the building holds about 350 inmates, according to a report by Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo. In 2013, a county jail planning task force determined the need for a new jail was “critical” due to overcrowding and unsafe conditions.
I was part of a small group of media delegates and local government officials invited to tour the facility in downtown Bellingham. A new county jail facility is in the planning stages, and voters will have a chance to approve the county's jail plan during this November's general election. That plan looks increasingly likely to proceed without Bellingham's help, as the city council balked at a financing plan that proposed a 0.2 percent sales tax increase. The county has developed plan B, reducing the proposed size of the facility from 521 beds to 400, at a cost of about $75 million.

Our tour guide was Ray Baribeau. Baribeau is an associate chaplain at the jail. He's been working with inmates for most of his adult life. He's pleasant and unassuming, but beneath the genial surface is genuine frustration at the poor quality of the facility.

Before the tour began, Terry shared a pamphlet showing the SCORE (South Correctional Entity) regional jail in Des Moines, Washington. Whatcom County is consulting with that facility's designers on its new facility in Ferndale. The pictures depict well-lit, wide-open spaces, top-quality medical facilities and floor-to-ceiling windows in the lobbies and employee break rooms that flood the rooms with natural light. It was a stark contrast to the facility we were to walk through.

The employee break room sets the tone. Three small tables and two ratty couches are haphazardly crammed together around a small flat screen TV, jammed between a row of banged-up lockers and an oversized vending machine filled with energy drinks. The only glimpse of natural light comes through a row of tiny, opaque windows that line three of the walls near the ceiling. An officer jokes that they have the second-best view in the building, after a cell in the third-floor solitary confinement. The only difference is you can see out the windows in the solitary cell.

The rest of the jail makes a similarly ignominious impression. The elevators lurch and judder uncomfortably as they slowly change floors. The fluorescent fixtures are cracked and flickering. Paint is chipped, concrete cracking, the lettering on some of the doors has worn away, and in some places was hastily redrawn with magic marker.

We visit one of the first-floor dormitories, called "tanks." This tank has about 10 bunks and an open floor space. Inside, men gather close to the window and start making zoo animal noises.

"Y'all here to see some criminals?" one shouts. "Take a good look."

This tank was originally designed for men's work release, but was converted to house overflow. Up to 30 people can live in each of the dorms at a time. Baribeau is critical of the dormitory system.

"Dorms like this are a recipe for trouble," he said. "You put a bunch of guys together, and even if they're normally well-behaved, they'll start needling each other, and that's when things get violent."
The problem is especially acute when sex offenders are brought in amongst the general population. Baribeau said sex offenders tend to be well-behaved when kept on their own, but are targeted when put in large groups. Now, most sex offenders are kept under heavier security on the second or third floor, as much for their protection as anything else, but sometimes there just isn’t space to segregate them.

The better method, Baribeau said, is “pod” cells, two people per room united by a large common area. The SCORCE facility from the pamphlet used this design.

The kitchen is a long, narrow space on the first floor. The floor, a rust-colored rubber surface, is only about three months old. The county paid to put it in after the health department found the cracked, worn tiles too much of a slipping hazard. About a dozen inmates are working in the kitchen, music blaring. They politely turn the music down as Baribeau leads the tour through, and proceed to mug for the cameras and joke with us. These are minimum risk inmates, what would once have been known as “trustees,” and they’re given a lot of leeway for their good behavior.

The kitchen facility was designed to serve 145 prisoners three meals a day. The kitchen manager tells us they now make 370 meals three times a day, including the 135 meals they send to off-site work groups. A spare room had to be converted into bulk food storage to deal with the demand. That room is located on the third floor, on the opposite end of the facility, so crews haul carts there and back a few times a day.

The food storage isn’t the only space that’s been repurposed. Baribeau is constantly pointing out rooms that used to be this or were converted from that. The first-appearance courtroom on the second floor was once the commissary, where inmates could buy snacks or decks of cards. A room once designated solely for GED classes is now the multi-purpose room, hosting Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Bible study groups in addition to GED classes.

We come across a stack of thin mattresses resting in long plastic trays. These trays are called “boats,” and they’re used when the jail is over capacity and inmates need to sleep on the floor. The mattresses are thin, and most are torn at the seams and spewing wads of cotton.

“If you have two people in a cell and need to add a third, that third person is called the “rug,”” Baribeau said.

Medium- and maximum-security cells are located on the second floor. It’s after 5 p.m. when we take our tour, so most of the inmates are on lockdown, but some are left to roam the racks, if only to
collect their medication from nurse Brady, a cheerful man in his 20s.

Baribeau is well liked amongst guards and inmates alike. He teaches Bible study a few times a week, and knows most of the inmates by name. He chats with some of them on our tour, his tone shifting from amiable to disappointed when he sees a familiar face back behind bars.

One inmate, secluded in the sex offender’s block, kneels close to the ground to chat with Baribeau through the food tray slot. He explains to Baribeau that he’s on his way to prison.

“For the same thing?” Baribeau asks. The inmate nods.

Inmates on the second and third floors have most of their conversations with the outside world through those food slots, unless they’re using the visitation cells located on each floor. Baribeau jokes that old guys like him have learned to bring a stool to spare their knees.

Officer Tim Kiele pauses the tour and invites us to come into the control room. He’s enthusiastic and friendly, and the few times he interacts with inmates over the intercom, it seems he’s well respected by the population. The county spent $3.5 million to update the control center five years ago. Kiele said the new system is a huge improvement over the last, but he still has concerns over some of the antiquated wiring.

“As far as I’m concerned, this new system is a band-aid,” he said. “We still have to address the wiring and the floor plan. If there were ever a fire, all of these guys would be gone.”

Baribeau echoes this sentiment later in the tour.

“There are two things you pray for when you enter this building,” Baribeau said. “No earthquakes and no fires.”

The fire escape routes, which are far too narrow to easily accommodate the population, are located at the far end of the hallway. Each floor has several cracks along the surface. In one section, a small gauge used to monitor seismic activity and structural integrity has been placed over a crack like a band-aid.

While Baribeau was critical of the facility, he had nothing but praise for the jail’s employees.
“These people work so hard every day, and believe me, this is not an easy job,” he said.

We arrive on the third floor, which houses female inmates and the solitary confinement wing. “Solitary” proves to be a bit of a misnomer: most of the solitary cells, which by design are meant to keep antisocial or violent offenders away from the population, have been modified to house two or more. Only the most extreme cases are actually isolated. One room, the one the officer described as having the best view in the building, is meant as a shower facility for solitary inmates. When we visited, four men were sleeping on bunks in the room. Baribeau seemed perturbed by this, since beds were available elsewhere.

Near the solitary wing were two tanks used to house inmates with severe mental or physical health requirements, or those in protective custody. The medical facilities are located on the second floor.

“It’s criminal that we have people with medical needs on a different floor from the medical facility,” Baribeau said.

The medical facilities have two examination rooms and a small staff of nurses. A psychologist visits the facility a few times a week. Whatcom County Council has promised more money for mental health and prevention programs in the new county jail, with 8,000 square feet earmarked for mental health facilities.

Baribeau leads us back downstairs, joking with guards on our way. Squinting at the sunlight outside, we depart, grateful to be out and that we all have better views to look forward to than the guards at the Whatcom County Jail.
Kiwanis Group Tour & Newsletter Reports

This email from a taxpayer highlights how the Executive Branch worked with the Insiders groups to do tours, arranging continual presentations over time. The significance of this comes in the attached newsletters, the continual and ongoing use of facilities and elected officials to condition the public to buy the “story” that the taxpayers need to buy a new jail, and they do not provide any alternatives to meet the demand. They do not take input, offer any choices to the public other than to get them prepared to ‘buy’ the sales tax.

From: Sandra Robson <sjm2@yahoo.com>
Date: December 16, 2015 at 1:35:27 PM PST
To: tip@skookum.us
Subject: Bellingham Kiwanis info. relating to the new jail

Tip,
I tried to dig up some information per your Facebook post in which you asked people for information about the Kiwanis Club, etc., that were listed on Jack Louws’ calendar, in terms of the new jail issue. I included screenshot photos of the Kiwanis’ newsletter pages which pertained to what I outlined below. I will have to send an additional email in order to get all the photos included as I can only send (photos at a time with my iPhone).

I don’t know if this helps, but here is what I could find out in terms of the Bellingham Kiwanis meetings relating to the proposed new jail:

The Kiwanis announced in their June 2, 2015 newsletter that there would be a tour of the jail on June 30.

They held their meeting that week at the County Courthouse, had a brown bag lunch during the meeting, and then toured the jail.

Kiwanis President Doug Bestle hosted the tour, and Nancy Larsen and Alyson Batchelder-Bestle arranged the tour.

According to the June 30 newsletter, “the tour was to give some insights for the needs of what has become the 10+ year saga of the proposed new Whatcom County Jail.”

The club’s August 4 newsletter reported that Mayor Kelli Linville came and presented on the proposed new jail and the waterfront re-development.

The club’s April 21 newsletter reported that Sheriff Bill Elfo came to the club and gave a presentation on April 21, 2015. Mostly he spoke about was the new jail.

In a phone call yesterday with Kiwanis member Nancy Larsen, I understood her to say that Jack Louws gave a presentation to the club during this past summer, but she did not remember the date. She said the proposed new jail was one of the subjects he spoke about.

Hope something here might help you.

Sandy Robson

Sent from my iPhone
Elizabeth Bennett was happy for the wonderful job done by all at Theatre Night.

Russ Weston razzed Dick Zagelow for all his marketing support for the Mushroom Compost Sale this past Saturday, apparently Dick arrived after half the bags had been filled.

Jan Armstrong won the draw but couldn't find the joker. We play again next week.

Program

Bill Elfo is our Whatcom County Sherriff. Bill comes almost every year even knowing that Russ Weston will be here.

When asked how he liked Rich's jokes, he said he thought they were great – it's an election year after all.

Bill wanted to talk about the need for mental health services in the county and how many with these issues end up incarcerated without proper treatment. Bill suggested that the better way to treat mental illness issues, as well as substance abuse issues, is outside the jail system. Provide services before considering jail time. This does
require an increase in services available.

The new jail, subject to voter approval, will have facilities and additional practitioners to provide these services.

Last year 8,500 were booked into our local jail. This includes border fugitives and those convicted who would previously been housed in state facilities.

Our jail’s capacity of 148 is currently being stretched to accommodate 320. Over 60% of those inmates have mental health or substance abuse issues.

Another issue that the sheriff’s office is facing is once an inmate enters the jail system, their Medicaid benefits are cancelled. Upon release re-enlisting is an onerous process that not all are willing to navigate. The sheriff’s office provides assistance with this.

TOUR:

Indianapolis to celebrate 100 years of Kiwanis! June 30th – Our club’s tour of the Whatcom County jail. Lunch orders for a brown bag lunch will be taken at our meetings on the 16th and 23rd.

The 30 minute tour was long enough to make you realize how precious freedom is, and should be cherished.

This photo was found in one of the jail’s archives.
to follow their dream. What a testament to the human spirit. Tim is famous for giving hugs to all his customers in the restaurant, and elsewhere.

The jail tour was about 30 minutes, and consisted of 3 different floor levels in the complex, designed to address the specific needs of those incarcerated: separation of men and women, attitudes, mental health issues, juvenile section, etc.

very impressive.

The facility has a medical area with an on-site staff; a small courtroom to provide timely process guaranteed by law and seems to cover the immediate needs of those under arrest.

All levels from a security standpoint are about the same and the professionalism of staff was

There isn’t too much to say about the place except that is a lot of cinder block hallways, locked doors, and is depressive.
Addendum 2 dated 04-17-2016 to Noble Cause Corruption Complaint #1122 filed 11-30-2015 – by Joy Gilfilen

“Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail Now” PAC
– Filed July, 2015
Co-Chairs Ray Baribeau and Terry Terry and Coach Bob

This political action committee was originally filed only by Ray Baribeau just before the Primary and General Campaigns, and was later modified to include these other members. Notably, this PAC was filed after the DLR Group, the Sheriff, the Prosecutor’s office and the Executive met in June. It seems that the filing members were an extension of the Public Safety Now (PSN) and Sheriff’s Advisory Group. Ray Baribeau and Terry Terry are now listed as the final Co-Chairs, with Bob Friske listed as the Coach. E-mails, minutes and videos show these collaborators worked closely with Sheriff Elfo, Wendy Jones and other officials the past few years.
Specific Campaign Contributors Include:

- Ray and Phyllis Baribeau - $1,500
- Teamsters Local 231 - $1,000
- Ryan Tyler (Multop Financial) - $1,700
- Vigoreen Lettie $900 (Multop Financial)
- Joe T. Wilson $900 (Pearson Brothers Construction)
- Associated General Contractors - $500
- Frank Chmelik - $500 (Attorney)
- Jack and Cindy Louws - $500 (Whatcom County Executive)
- Dorathey L. Booth - $250 (retired)
- Wendy Jones - $150 (Whatcom Co Jail Chief)
- Susan B. Kaplan $200 (retired)
- Linda Kolody - $100
- Taylor Sears $100
- Anne and Richard Van Kolken $100
- Karen Bellingar - $50
- Joan Dow - $50
- Glenn Shinn - $50
- In-kind contributions came from: Robert Friske $257 (Church at Bakerview, Pastor) for designing, printing and folding the new jail info fact flyer.

Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail Now PAC expenses include:

- Cascade Radio Group $5,065 for radio ads with KGMI, KISM, KPUG, and KAFE.
- IOSAC Services - $1,205.07 for webpage layout, registration, hosting, additional social media services
- IOSAC Services - $820 – for final bill social media services
- Grandview Sign and Awning - $800 – campaign signs
- IOSAC Services - $525 – Social media services and boosted posts
- Cascade Radio Group - $260 – Additional radio ads at KAFE and KGMI
- Ray Baribeau $215.19 Reimbursement for fundraising envelopes
- Cascade Radio Group - $190 – Additional radio ads - KGMI and KPUG
- Jalapenos Restaurant -- $157.29 – Food for Campaign Wrap Up Meeting
- Grandview Sign and Awning -- $98.47 – Additional Graphics for second side
- Expenses of $50 or less - $77.27 and $34.76
- Ray Baribeau - $41 – Post Office Box Rental for 6 months
- Ray Baribeau - $ 13.00 Whatcom County Precinct Map and Voter Info.
WhatcomJail.com website / Marketing

The PAC ran a fairly aggressive social media and video marketing campaign, which seems to be coordinated and developed mostly with Terry Terry and ISOAC productions. This site and Facebook page is still up and functional after the campaign season.

- This PAC had a strong Facebook Page presence and invested a lot into creating a strong ad campaign and strong marketing videos.
- Baribeau was the spokesperson on multiple radio interviews as a proponent of the tax.
- Baribeau and other members testified repeatedly to the Council, wrote letters to the editor and did grassroots campaigning.
- This PAC used the Build a Safe Jail Now Campaign materials and videos created by the Public Safety Now group earlier on their WhatcomJail.com and with their Safe Jail Now campaign.
- This PAC also used materials produced by the Bellingham Herald and Northern Lights, after giving them tours of the jail and photos.

Workers: Baribeau appears to run the ground campaign, getting people out to testify. Baribeau organizes jail tours, fair events and parades, etc.
Staff and PSN Members in Videos: These are all different videos produced by someone for the Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail Now PAC. Some were filmed and produced by the Herald, some from the Public Safety Now group, some by IOSAC Productions and it appears paid for by the PAC. Some of the people interviewed are employees or elected officials of the County.

Bill Elle Responds to Misleading Information
Bill Elle corrects misleading and inaccurate information disseminated by two city labor organizations.

Act now or pay later
Some argue we cannot afford to build a new jail. But can we afford to wait?

County Community Report on the Jail
Whatcom County published the matter about Prop 2015-1 to fund a replacement jail. Opponents are outraged, but facts are still facts.

How to break the jail
Everyone knows the jail is a broken liability. Voting "no" on new jail funding may also break the BANK.

County responds to Bellingham's offer
Executive Louws has responded to Bellingham’s proposal. Reality check: Mayor Lineville won’t get a special deal.

Jail talk at Birch Bay Forum
Oct 1
Funding a new jail was a hot topic at the forum, watch the highlight video.
Birch Bay “Community” Debate
Was an Undisclosed Jail Marketing/Filming Event for PAC

Not disclosed in advance to the candidates, this author figured out after the fact that this event was staged, and was a setup by the PAC for campaign purposes. It was publicly promoted as an open community forum supposedly sponsored by the Birch Bay community and the Chamber of Commerce. It turns out that this event was moderated and supported by the Co-Chairs of the Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail Now PAC with the help of members of the Public Safety Now Group, and the Sheriff’s Advisory Group who are also part of the Chamber. (Note the earlier cross reference in the PSN minutes how they had tested the fire video on the Chamber members?)

- Terry Terry, Doralee Booth, and Ray Baribeau seem to have been in charge of the setup, filming, question control, and the timing of the whole event – together with IOSAC productions.

- Terry moderated the event. She is also the Co-Chair of the PAC that was filming the event for production into a WhatcomJail.now video.

- Here is the link to the video that was produced by ISOAC and the Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail PAC after the debate happened. It was a full campaign piece that was produced from the night’s questioning. Viewers can see that the opening is clearly in favor of the jail, it is framed as a community debate, but it is credited to ISOAC Productions, and then closed with the WhatcomJail.com website.

In hindsight, the debate questions and answers seem to have been partially scripted and organized for a film presentation. The author noticed during the debate that virtually all the candidates seemed to have been coached and fully prepared to intentionally and clearly support the jail and the tax.

There was one oppositional candidate, Joy Gilfilen, who was a Candidate for Whatcom County Executive. During the debate Gilfilen found she had to literally challenge the moderator at certain points, to stop her from making presumptive statements. One example was where Terry Terry, the moderator, said that “everyone agrees” that we need a new jail – and Joy had to be rude to interrupt her and disagree, or that statement would have stood as a presumptive fact.

Some screen shots follow that illustrate how the debate film was then used for promotional purposes on the WhatcomJail.com site and on Facebook. To watch the videos go online. Whoever edited the debate tapes was able to turn individual testimonies into additional promotional videos. These videos included at least two more people who were running for election – Barbara Brenner and Bruce Ayers. The video taken was edited down into small You Tube videos that could easily be posted to Facebook as well. So the PAC video team used the debate as a whole to film and promote the jail tax, and used it in segments to promote candidates.

Videos produced by this PAC and connected to the campaign should be investigated for deeper violations of misuse of facilities, inmates rights and staff time.

The following are screenshots from the promotional videos produced and posted online.
Addendum 2 dated 04-17-2016 to Noble Cause Corruption Complaint #1122 filed 11-30-2015 – by Joy Gilfilen
Jail Talk at Birch Bay Candidates Forum

Barbara Brenner’s perspective on jail funding in Whatcom County
by Whatcom Jail
16 views

Bruce Ayers: Whatcom County Jail and alternative programs
by Whatcom Jail
14 views

Whatcom County Jail: don’t kick the can again
by Whatcom Jail
27 views
These short videos were put together by the PAC or by the Bellingham Herald and they have photos from inside the County facilities, and they include inmates, staff and parents of staff.
Concerns of Taxpayers

Violations Ongoing for Years
(Yet the prior taxes have been diverted from their original purpose)

Taxpayers Question 1:

Why is it that three Whatcom County officials – the County Executive, the Sheriff and the Prosecutor – who are responsible for enforcing laws are allowed to violate the law by choice? Why can they continue to overcrowd the facilities and operate the jail in such inhumane conditions by their own admission for decades? Voters have allocated money from the 1999, 2004 and 2008 taxes. Why did it not solve the problems? Voters intended that money to be used to buy a new jail to relieve the jail overcrowding, and to resolve mental health crises. Instead, it appears that some money was used for the work release and jail industry expansion – which increased arrests. It did not build the new jail as taxpayers expected. And the problems remain. For example, there was an email sent to the Whatcom County Council in 2015 by the Restorative Community Coalition showing fifteen ways that they’ve discovered the Executive Branch is over-criminalizing people. They asked for review – it was ignored. No one investigated from the Council or the Executive Branch when civil rights violations are reported. Where is the legal accountability?

Action Step 1:
To Cut Costs / Save Taxes: Review current administrative practices

In Whatcom County, we can choose to review arrest, jailing and court practices to see where the County could improve its processes. The purpose would be to look for ways to reduce excessive jailing that could be causing unnecessary over-crowding and increased demand for beds. Since 2006, the Coalition has identified fifteen troublesome areas in Whatcom County administrative, judicial and police practices that indicate possible over-incarceration patterns that could be adjusted. Estimated reduction of jail population: 15-20% of non-violent and legally innocent people.

1. Arresting the homeless and poor in sweeps, and for being unable to pay fines
2. Stacking of charges where people are arrested on 1 charge, then extra charges are added
3. Excessive continuances caused by Prosecutors not signing papers or doing their work
4. Prosecutors change the nature and terms of plea bargains already negotiated prior to court
5. Excessively high plea bargain rates (and low dismissal rates) for the Prosecutor
6. Excessively high bail amounts that make it next to impossible for people to release on bail
7. Reduced use of Blue Ribbon Drug Court – administration, rules and policies were changed
8. No facilities for Substance Abuse Treatment that allow self-admission, so arrests increase
9. Automatic jailing, prosecution of at least one person on any callout for Domestic Violence
10. High percentage of arrests for driving with suspended license (1st violation = jail time) vs. non-violent misdemeanor named No Valid Operating License (no jail time)
11. Witnesses not being interviewed in a timely manner (sometimes not until a year later) which increases number of court appearances, harassment and punishment
12. Decreased ‘good time’ by 50% (by administrative decision) that increased jail bed stays
13. Inadequate/ineffective de-escalation techniques (where law enforcement was called to improve safety, instead escalation occurred)
14. Excessive problems with mental health patients with people taken off legal meds cold turkey, causing trauma and additional problems with stress, abuse, exacerbated detention
15. Minimal social services available that would downsize the jail occupancy load for those who are non-violent, have had trauma from an accident, or other reasons to not be jailed when they pose no flight or public safety risk
This letter shows that the Good Time was reduced from the prior years. It sounds nice, unless you realize this is actually a cut and it increased the amount of time people had to stay in jail, and increased the overcrowding in the jail. Notice this was done during the time that the 2008 jail tax issues were surfacing; another critical campaign period. This letter changed time and it changed qualifications. Why?
This is a Comparison Chart to other cities that accompanied the above letter.

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**Taxpayers Question 2**: No Public Debate about alternative economic choices. – Why not?
Why is it that during the jail planning processes, numerous people asked that community public hearings be held before the Council, that alternatives to building the jail be considered including examining restorative justice alternatives, prevention and early intervention solutions? Yet no action was taken...who is ultimately responsible to the taxpayers for fair and legal due process?

**Taxpayers Question 3**: No Fiduciary Responsibility to the Citizens – Why not?
There was no accountable feedback loop to those citizens who spent days and months working on the issues, analyzing the SDEIS, the FEIS - providing concerns, questions. Why was it allowed that considerable information was provided into the planning process by trusting citizens, dozens of questions and concerns were repeatedly raised – and ignored? In the FEIS document, they finally include the dozens of letters and testimonies listing serious citizens’ concerns...and most of it was arbitrarily dismissed as “outside the scope” of planning. **The jail industry contractors dismiss it.** Who enforces the state and federal EIS laws?

**Taxpayers Question 4**: No Valid Needs Assessment - How can an invalidated 6-page Jail Capacity Needs Document adequately justify a $132.5M capital expenditure? Especially a tax that would put people in debt forever? Especially when taxpayers paid millions for planning that was supposed to be based on a valid Needs Assessment? How does it work to deliver this piece AFTER ALL THE PLANNING WAS DONE? Especially when this document was questioned on Page FS-7 in the FEIS report by that same administration and sent back to the authors? Instead they proceeded to push the tax to the voters with only facilities demands and biased industry plans? Where is the accountability?

---

**Who protects taxpayers from the jail industry vendors, from the law enforcers, from insider’s interests?**

When an educated person reads all the documents...it is provable that there never has been a valid needs assessment produced to economically justify this large capital expansion. Yes a plan to build a regional jail project was delivered, but no economic assessment was done to justify the project or the sales tax for the voters. Even though taxpayers have paid many times to receive a full and valid needs assessment, they only got insider demands – an honest assessment was never delivered by the jail industry contractors or by the Executive Branch to the people.

Instead, evidence points to the jail tax as a professional con game foisted upon vulnerable citizens.
**Taxpayers Question 5: No Clear Fiscal Accountability for Taxes Received? Why Not?**

Where is the fiscal accountability to the citizens? Many concerns have been raised by taxpayers. Where did the tax money go from the 1999, 2004 and 2008 taxes? One of our citizens asked questions of the Council...and here is one of the letters:

Honorab[ ...]

It is appropriate for the city to consider what is needed in a jail agreement, what is needed in a jail and what is needed in jail alternatives. The County should do more of this, too.

However, I question the propriety of either council continuing to engage with the current jail proposal. Refusing to submit to the false urgency of the manufactured jail crisis could foster a more comprehensive approach to the future of our regional justice services.

I would draw your attention to a Whatcom Watch article in which Riley Sweeney outlines the cloak of secrecy under which this proposal emerged.


Besides the opaque procedure for the property acquisition, the lack of a credible needs assessment or public participation process should be ringing alarm bells. The proposal has bounced around from 800 some beds to 600 some, 500 some and now 400 some. The right figure is very important and requires competent planning. This has been sorely lacking.

It is very important because medicaid benefits terminate immediately upon incarceration. Medical is already about 40% of jail operations and one of the fastest growing components. If half the folks landing in jail could be better managed in diversionary programs that preserve their benefits, we suddenly save 20% of operations off the top and provide citizens better outcomes at much lower costs than those incurred under incarceration.
Policy makers should also consider why the jail is crumbling. Did supervision fail to assure that specification were achieved in the construction? Shouldn't we find out why before embarking upon the construction of another large public facility? Why is the jail still such a mess, with leaking sewage and unsafe wiring? We already passed one sales tax increase to address those problems.

An analysis of 14 land assessments on eight parcels surrounding the jail property produced an average value of $30,212 per acre. The jail property itself is assessed at $44,329 per acre. Why did the County pay $149,468 per acre?

According to Sweeney, “Throughout this process, now County Executive Louws pushed for a quick selection of the jail property...” What was the hurry? Ironically, Louws himself helped establish the unprecedented comparable property value that cost taxpayers $4,177,176 over the jail site’s $1,761,206 valuation.

In 2000, Louws bought 6 acres cattycorner from the jail site for $660,000. He sold it to Homeland Security in 2010 for $4,850,000 with two buildings currently valued at $2,538,240. Because of that sale, the land is uniquely assessed, well over any nearby property, at $240,413 per acre. Even if the land doubled in value over the ten years Louws had it, the Feds essentially still delivered him a million dollar premium just as he prepared to run for County Executive, a position from which he engineered the somewhat sketchy jail property acquisition - next to Homeland Security, the US Civil Defense Highway, the railroad, and the airport with the joint Emergency Operations Center.

That's starting to sound a bit like the makings of a FEMA camp. What really bothers me is that folks in jail need frequent connection to the courts. Should we also anticipate the relocation of the county seat to this Ferndale location when sustaining the also crumbling courthouse becomes unmanageable? If we are posturing for a regional justice center, shouldn't it be done in the open with the involvement of policy makers and the public?

The current jail proposal intends to use 100% of funding available for public safety, leaving nothing for emergency services, fire protection or ancillary services. Law and justice is the largest and fastest growing component of the County budget and is poised to explode under the current proposal. It is likely to devour the entire budget, with potential to interfere with the delivery of other goods and services taxpayers require.

http://www.nwcitizen.com/entry/proposed-new-county-lockup-financial-analysis

Finally, it is worth remembering that Louws, quoted in the Cascadia Weekly, weakly explained that he simply "lost track" of pursuing jail alternatives, even though it was one of his "assignments".
That's just not good enough. It is past time for a do-over on the jail proposal. A different jail proposal might target banked property tax value and preserve the dedicated sales tax option for application to a broader range of services.

Please just say, "No, thank you², and lets work on something designed to help our neighbors, friends and family members stay in jobs or school and out of jail. That's the way to save costs.

Thank you.

**Taxpayers Question #6: No Good Records Available to Maintenance Claimed? Why not?**

Was there truly good maintenance done on the jail in the past decade or more? Why was this kind of concern not truly addressed for the Bellingham City Council members when they asked, or when the taxpayers asked for an accounting? *Especially when the Sheriff claims certain things are true in his verbal and written testimony - yet he doesn't back up his testimony with verifiable facts?*

When taxpayers asked public records for the maintenance records, here is a string of emails that shows how taxpayers are responded to. In the end, the request was essentially denied. Why?

---

**Request 2015-178 - facilities Documents**

Tip Johnson <tipjohnson@bellinghamwa.gov>

to me

Apparently, there is no record of the millions Elfo said went into the jail. Either that, or they just stonewalled me. Either way, this is a public disclosure issue now that he said it.

Tracking number 2015-178

------- Forwarded Message
From: Tip Johnson <tipjohnson@bellinghamwa.gov>
Date: Mon, 21 Sep 2015 14:42:09 -0700
To: PublicRecordsOfficer <PublicRecordsOfficer@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: Jail Building repair estimates, structural evaluations, known issues

Hello Mark,

Another request. There has been a lot of talk about problems with the jail, and anecdotes about someone removing a bearing wall in the basement. I would like to inspect any documents related to structural reports, repair or renovation cost estimates, and costs and descriptions of remedial work that has been done to keep it going. Thank you,

Tip Johnson

====
Addendum 2 dated 04-17-2016 to Noble Cause Corruption Complaint #1122 filed 11-30-2015 – by Joy Gilfillen

From: PublicRecordsOfficer <PublicRecordsOfficer@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Date: Thu, 24 Sep 2015 20:38:25 +0000
To: Tip Johnson <tip@skookum.us>
Subject: RE: Jail Building repair estimates, structural evaluations, known issues

Tip,

Whatcom County received your request for public records on September 21, 2015. It was assigned tracking number 2015-178 and was forwarded to the Facilities Management Division where we reasonably expected any responsive records to be found.

The work you reference pre-dates anyone currently employed at Whatcom County. Facilities Manager Michael Russell tells me that he is not aware of any documentation of the work on the wall, but believes there may be documentation of the effort to remediate the effects of the previous work. He is willing to talk with you about what he knows about the issue.

We estimate that it could take up to a month to dig through the archives in an attempt to locate any responsive documents.

Should you wish to speak with the Facilities Manager, please call Facilities at 360-778-5360 and ask for Mike.

Mark Burnfield, CPRO

From: PublicRecordsOfficer <PublicRecordsOfficer@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Date: Mon, 26 Oct 2015 16:58:50 +0000
To: Tip Johnson <tip@skookum.us>
Subject: Request 2015-178 - update

Tip,

After talking with a couple of people at Facilities this is what I have learned. The work on the jail in the past few years has been performed by Sierra Detention Systems. Sierra did subcontract with an engineer to look at the building as part of their project and the engineer made recommendations that included work on the openings that had been made in the basement. The project Sierra was hired to do has not been closed out and all of the records are still in the possession of the contractor. We cannot provide a time estimate of when the County will have access to said records.

How do you wish to proceed?

Mark Burnfield, CPRO

=====

From: PublicRecordsOfficer <PublicRecordsOfficer@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Date: Fri, 6 Nov 2015 23:04:10 +0000
To: Tip Johnson <tip@skookum.us>
Subject: Closing Requests

Tip.

You had indicated verbally that it was OK to closed records requests 2015-178 and 2015-195. I'm just writing to get confirmation.

Mark Burnfield
Last E-Mail Received by the taxpayer:

From: Tip Johnson <Tip Johnson@co.whatcom wa.us>
Date: Fri, 06 Nov 2015 23:04:44 -0800
To: PublicRecordsOfficer <PublicRecordsOfficer@co.whatcom wa.us>
Subject: Re: Closing Requests

Mark,

No thank you. For one, I never indicated any lagging interest in 2015-195. As far as 2015-178 goes, I've received confidential email advising me that such records do exist and how to go about finding them. In addition, I have opened a line of communication with the contractor. Let's keep it all still active, do our jobs and try to stay out of trouble. OK?

Thanks,

Tip

=====

From: PublicRecordsOfficer <PublicRecordsOfficer@co.whatcom wa.us>
Date: Thu, 3 Dec 2015 00:06:53 +0000
To: Tip Johnson <Tip Johnson@co.whatcom wa.us>
Subject: Request 2015-178 - Facilities Documents

Tip,

Attached are the only records found by Whatcom County Facilities Management in response to your request.

I will now be closing request 2015-178.

Mark Burnfield, CPRO

One page document 2015-178 Facilities Docs.pdf - Describes Sierra Detention Systems concern over the angle at which some bolts were installed.

=====
Taxpayers Question 8: Why is our Executive Branch intentionally and inhumanely mistreating our citizens in violation of Whatcom County Code 1.28.100? Is it necessary – or is it to coerce the taxpayers under duress to comply with an enforcer's demands?

By their own admission, these officials have admitted that instead of repairing or fixing the jail, or reducing the overcrowding, the jail overcrowding has continued for years – even with other taxes passed to build a new jail, to fund more mental health. Why? Does admitting to the abuse of taxpayers excuse accountability?

Right now, taxpayers inside the jail suffer, and their family members suffer. The taxpayers who are paying more taxes suffer and families of taxpayers suffer as they pick up the pieces and pay more for jail contractor services. Civil rights continue to be violated and people are mistreated.

The Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office, the Prosecutor and the Executive Branch continued to operate above the law in non-compliance with their own WCC 1.28.100. Today they still are operating in a similar manner. They still have not addressed and instead sidestep any responsibility for the overcrowding. Even as they negotiate new contracts today...they still are not examining their own administrative bias or corrections.

Where is the accountability and fiduciary responsibility to house inmates in a humane manner?

See this string of emails sent to the County Executive by a taxpayer. Others have also asked in testimony before the Council why the Executive doesn’t have to follow their own Whatcom County Codes?

This string of emails from a taxpayer was functionally ignored by the Executive.

From: BBGUN1010@aol.com [mailto:BBGUN1010@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 11:03 AM
To: Bill Elfo; Jack Louws
Cc: Barbara Brenner; NaDean Hanson; w.harris2007@comcast.net
Subject: Fwd: FW: Jail overcrowding under WCC Sec. 1.28.100

Bill and Jack,
I hope you will answer the questions posed by Wendy Harris.

Thank you,
Barbara Brenner

If this e-mail is about county business, it is a public record subject to public disclosure upon request. Please send all e-mails related to county business to my official county e-mail address, bbrenner@co.whatcom.wa.us. Thank you.
-----Original Message-----
From: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
To: Barbara Brenner <bbrenner@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Barry Buchanan <BBuchanan@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Carl Weimer <cweimer@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Ken Mann <kmann@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Pete Kremen <PKremen@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Rud Browne <RBrowne@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Satpal Sidhu <SSidhu@co.whatcom.wa.us>
CC: Dana Brown-Davis <dbrown@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Jill Nixon <jnixon@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Kristi Felbinger <KFelbing@co.whatcom.wa.us>, Marina Engels <mengels@co.whatcom.wa.us>, NaDean Hanson <nhanson@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Subject: FW: Jail overcrowding under WCC Sec. 1.28.100
Date: Mon, 5 Oct 2015 15:18:53 +0000

From: WENDY [mailto:w.harris2007@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 12:30 AM
To: Council; Jack Louws
Cc: city council; Joy Gilfilen
Subject: Jail overcrowding under WCC Sec. 1.28.100

I have been reviewing the Whatcom County Code with regard to the jail issue, and I have some questions regarding the application of WCC 1. 28.100.B through E, inclusive.

I know that the Sheriff has been advising the public for quite for some that there is a problem with jail overcrowding. As I read WCC 1.28.100.E, this situation was anticipated and an appropriate remedy enacted into Whatcom County law. I also note the County Code reflects some recent changes in unrelated sections, so I assume this law is still current and applicable.

My question is whether a maximum capacity designation was determined pursuant to WCC 1.28.100.B, who made this designation, where it can be found and the maximum number of prisoners reflected.

My next question is whether the maximum capacity pursuant to WCC 1.28.100.C was tracked and where this data may be found.

Does this data, if there was compliance with the county code, reflect a maximum capacity that exceeds the average daily population for any calendar month?

Under WCC 1.28.100.D, any report of conditions of overcrowding required by the County Code is considered a notice of emergency suspension of standards. I am aware that the sheriff has spoken about an emergency situation in the jail. I would like to know why the procedures of WWC 1.28100.E, which does not include building a new jail, were not implemented?

WCC 1.28.100.E reflects two possible options in response to jail overcrowding: 1) A joint effort between the Sheriff’s office and the Superior Court to release prisoners before the end of their term (it is unclear if this commutes the sentence), or 2) transfer to other approved facilities.

I am concerned that a Whatcom County website poses the question, "what is an overcrowded jail" and then fails to reference or incorporate the legal requirements of WCC 1.28.100. Instead, it noted that "overcrowding eventually caused the jail to turn some offender groups away and delay some court orders to
arrest and hold people." This is not a remedy within the provisions of the county code. Why would the Sheriff's office turn away offender groups or delay court orders in violation of the county's own regulations? [http://www.whatcomcounty.us/faq.aspx?qid=281](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/faq.aspx?qid=281)

Any information or public records that you could provide to shed light on this situation and my above questions would be appreciated.

Thank you. The relevant County Code provision is set forth below. Please forward this to the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force as I lack their county email address. Please accept this email as part of the official record.

Wendy Harris

1.28.100 Overcrowding.

B. Existing Jails. The chief law enforcement officer or his designee shall propose a maximum capacity for each detention or correctional facility within his or her jurisdiction. This capacity shall reflect a judgment as to the maximum number of prisoners who may be housed within the facility in a humane fashion.

C. Overcrowding. The maximum capacity may be exceeded to the extent that the average daily population for any calendar month does not exceed the established maximum capacity.

D. Any report of conditions of overcrowding required under this section shall be considered as a notice of an emergency suspension of standards.

E. The chief law enforcement officer or his designee shall establish, with the cooperation of the presiding judge of the superior court, a procedure for release of prisoners before the end of their term or the transfer to other approved facilities when overcrowding occurs as defined in this chapter.

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Bottomline:

Here was the reply Wendy Harris did not directly receive regarding her letter. Note this non-answer only responded to through the Council member and cc’d to the taxpayer.

From: "Jack Louws" <JLouws@co.whatcom.wa.us>
To: "BBGUN1010" <BBGUN1010@aol.com>, "Bill Elfo" <belfo@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Cc: "Barbara Brenner" <bbrenner@co.whatcom.wa.us>, "NaDean Hanson" <nhanson@co.whatcom.wa.us>, "w harris2007" <w.harris2007@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2015 11:26:38 AM
Subject: RE: FW: Jail overcrowding under WCC Sec. 1.28.100

We are working on it.

Jack Louws
Whatcom County Executive
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 98225
Really? The taxpayer never got an answer directly. And as of the date of this document, still has not responded, nor solved the problems.

Wendy’s final comment about this follows (from an email dated Oct. 5), and it sums up what taxpayers feel about the administration’s attitudes and behavior:

“FYI… ACCORDING TO THE CODE, THE SHERIFFS OFFICE WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK WITH THE SUPERIOR COURT. IF HE DID, IT IS NOT REFLECTED ON THE WEBSITE AND MISLEADS PEOPLE. IF HE DID NOT, HE WAS NOT FOLLOWING THE COUNTY CODE. EITHER WAY, IT DOES NOT LOOK GOOD.”

Who is being Inhumane?
The taxpayers or the officials?

If this is a true liability situation, why was it allowed to continue? Why was there no emergency plan to solve the inhumane conditions? Why was there no plan to move staff out of harm’s way to free space?

Even if the tax was passed, a new jail would still not be built for over four years!?!
It is time to Stop. Stop over-criminalizing, over-incarcerating and over-taxing the citizens for the benefit of the incarceration industry.

This is noble cause corruption: selling incarceration businesses (punishment services) under the guise of public safety. Be honest. Yes, we need jails for violent offenders who need to be removed for their safety and the safety of the community. Most people in jail in Whatcom County are not violent, are not a danger to the community.

Taxpayers are the people who fund the government. Taxpayers pay the officials salaries.

On April 8, 2015 the Restorative Community Coalition sent another clarifying e-mail from the Restorative Community Coalition to Carl Weimer, Whatcom County Council Chair, to Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, to the NAACP, ACLE, Seattle City Attorney, and other attorneys asking for support in investigating the patterns of inhumane treatment of citizens in Whatcom County. It was ignored.

Attached on the next 3 pages, is a copy of the email. The taxpayers are doing their job. We need your help.
E-Mail Notifying Whatcom County of 15 ways our County is Over-incarcerating

Sent April 8, 2015 – No response.

Joy Gilfilen <joy@joygilfilen.com>
to Carl Jack, Craig James, administration, contact

Here is the email forwarded to the NAACP, the ACLU, Seattle City Attorney, and the James Bible.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Joy Gilfilen
Date: Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 11:30 PM
Subject: List of Whatcom County excessive jailing issues
To: Craig.sims@seattle.gov, Irene Morgan

Hello, again, have no idea if you can help us, but here is the list of things -- patterns of behavior -- we have found in Whatcom County that is causing over-incarceration.

All of the following things are happening in Whatcom County. Each item listed we have witnesses and real stories for. This kind of action on the part of our administration is leading to an excessive number of our citizens being arrested and jailed. We believe we can show there is a direct link between the increase in the jail bed stay stats and the desire to drive the demand up so that a Regional Jail project can be built it Whatcom County - an 800 bed facility for 200,000 population - to the tune of $122.5 million.

Unfortunately, we have found patterns that reflect what the Department of Justice found in Ferguson, MI. All of the following could be verified with a review of the statistics and documents of public record. Our field review and research has found that there is a police and poverty bias, then the administrative attitudes and political actions are police revenue generating. All of this combines to produce increased jail bed stays, led by administrative action.

1. **Arresting the homeless**, poor in sweeps, changing homeless rules – directly overcrowds jail
2. **Stacking of charges** - People are arrested on one charge, then administratively compounded
3. **Excessive continuances** caused by Prosecutor not signing papers, have extended stays 8 months
4. **Prosecutors** change the nature of plea bargains when pleas were already negotiated
5. **Excessively high plea bargain rates**, Prosecutor will not negotiate even weak cases
6. **Excessively high bail amounts** that make it impossible for people to get out
7. **Reduced Blue Ribbon Drug Court** had rules and policies changed causing different outcomes
8. **No proper facilities for Substance Abuse Treatment**, so arrests increase costs to taxpayer
9. **Automatic jailing, prosecution** of at least one person on any callout for Domestic Violence
10. **High percentage of arrests** for driving with suspended license (crime) vs. non-violent misdemeanor named No Valid Operating License. Same problem, different result.
11. **Witnesses not being interviewed** in a timely manner – sometimes not until a year later
12. **Reduced good time by 50%** caused by administrative decision
13. **Issues with people being arrested just because** the cops were called, even without major issue
14. **Excessive problems with mental health patients** with people taken off legal meds cold turkey/ causing trauma and additional problems with stress, abuse, inability to handle the detention
15. **No alternative social services available** that would downsize the jail

That is our short list of what's happening inside. Hope you can help us ASAP. We are in a critical stage right now... and the tension is really, really quite high.

Here is why people are unable to speak out... the psychological abuse of being a border town with excessive police forces, a prosecutor who has been in business over 36 years, a Sheriff who is determined to increase his territory, a media that is publishing constant terror, an aggressive jail lobby... and the list goes on. Check out what has been happening... without any investigation:

- Police death of a civilian on Sunset Drive + 7 hour standoff on a major highway
- Police death of a civilian on Mosquito Lake + his Mother is arrested
- Police death of a man at the Border (maybe there is a review, we don’t know for sure)
- WWU "riot" that seemed odd in how it happened, but it was not investigated for excessive use of force when college students were fired upon by law enforcement
- Arrests from the SWAT action in the non-violent Occupy protests
- Ferndale High School was used for a SWAT shooting drill (during school)
- Sehome High School was locked down on a fear action (false threat)
- Sheriff goes on King 5 News and reports that Bellingham and Whatcom County has 31 gangs and we are being overrun... and no review by businessmen for accuracy or correction (yet real sex trafficking, arms and drugs are happening under cover)
- Excessive use of deep violence in media reporting – striking fear and creating serious bad press for Bellingham, when the arrest records of violent behavior is not increasing.
- A sales tax was passed a few years ago... and a jail built, and there has been no public accounting of where the money has actually gone... and now they want another .02% sales tax passed to fund a $122.5 Million dollar police/jail expansion

EMail re - 15 Rev Generating.docx
• Road funds, Excise Tax funds, real estate transactions have been transacted, millions of dollars is seized by authorities and sent to the Drug Task Force... limited accountability or results

• 501C3 Sheriff's Foundation has been created to support the Sheriff in doing things that are not authorized by the Council

• Jail industry officials are working inside the Sheriff's facilities and prosecutors offices... with no reporting; and we have excessive numbers of law enforcement in our area relative to population

• People, when arrested are taken off their legally prescribed medications cold turkey... sometimes for weeks and months, with deleterious results - huge mental health abuse

• The local Whatcom County Jail replacement project has suddenly become a 'regional jail project' with a $18.5 Million dollar Sheriff's Headquarters.

It is interesting that with the recent agressive move to build a very large jail... comes the new format of the budget, and the new format of the County Website. And suddenly the Sheriff's Department now appears to be called the Corrections Bureau. The Whatcom County Jail has become the new Whatcom County Adult Corrections Facility and Sheriff's Headquarters - with a 2 acre command center. All outside the County seat.

And the Council has been railroaded, and the Mayors are expected to just write up a contract to pay the bills, and approve taxing all the people of Whatcom County in perpetuity?

Even 18.8 acres of our central heart of downtown Bellingham Waterfront just got sold for $20 a square foot to an Irish international company... and there are problems with that too. We are in a pickle. Truly.

Thank you for your time. We would really appreciate help on this matter. It is truly beyond our ability to investigate or intervene on a legal level. All we can do is political intervention, as per our prior email. This is all deeply inhumane activity... and it is hurting a lot of people in Whatcom County. We have multi-million dollar local/regional businesses being essentially run out of town by the domincative behaviors. Our business people and officials are scared to step up to stop this; or they don't even understand it is happening.

Just so you know, all this is proveable. You can't really make this stuff up.

RestorativeCommunity.org  - our newest site, but it has been repeatedly hack... this is in recovery
ReclaimLives  - 5 minute video about our organization's work

Attachments area
Preview YouTube video Restorative Community Coalition: Reclaiming Lives

EMail re - 15 Rev Generating.docx
Testimony & Letters from the RCC

Historical Exhibits from Restorative Community Coalition

Illustrating Taxpayers Requests for Fiduciary Responsibility