

1. Location (inhumanity)

Hello my name is _____. I am here today to ask you to vote against approving funding for the North Park jail site. North Park, as you know, has no public transit infrastructure. It is miles away from downtown resources along a dangerous road. People are released from jail at all times of day, in all kinds of weather. This is a tragedy waiting to happen.

Furthermore, locating the jail in such a hard to reach spot will almost certainly result in an increase in Failures to Appear, currently the most common jail booking type. This location is inhumane in that it creates an additional, unnecessary hurdle for people who are struggling to get back on their feet.

2. Location (economic impact)

Hello my name is _____. I am asking you to vote against the North Park jail site. Moving the jail and courts out of downtown Bloomington will have a negative economic impact on our community. The presence of the Courts currently helps support downtown business. Moving it out of town will undercut that while simultaneously underdeveloping an important piece of land. This use of the North Park site runs counter to the Envision Ellettsville plan as well as the wishes of the Ellettsville community. The only people who will benefit economically from this plan are the jail construction company and architects while the rest of us will be saddled with a generations worth of debt all for the sake of a plan no one, except for Julie Thomas, really wants.

3. New Jail Not Required by ACLU

Hello my name is _____. I am asking you not to spend money on the North Park site because a new jail site is not necessary. Purchasing new property and building an entirely new jail is an extremely inefficient use of County funds because the County is nowhere required to build a new jail to address the concerns of the ACLU lawsuit. The ACLU lawsuit stipulates solely that steps be taken to keep the jail under capacity and that basic conditions be maintained. Building a new jail does not guarantee that either of these conditions will be met. As the example of other counties like Vigo county shows, larger new jails are often at capacity soon after they are built. As former jail commander Sam Crow said, "if you build it, they will fill it." This is especially true in an era when ICE is commandeering local jail space. And a new jail will not guarantee improvements in programming. While there may be space for programming, assuming ICE does not turn

it into additional bed space, will there be funding? Historically, funding has been as big of a hurdle for programming as space because Medicaid does not reimburse for services provided in a setting where people do not have freedom of movement. Funding is likely to be an even bigger issue in the future given the current political environment.

What will keep the jail population under capacity is investment in services which keep people out of jail. Monroe County has a wealth of organizations doing incredible work but are unable to scale up their efforts due to lack of funding. As I'm sure you are aware, a coalition of such organizations has presented the County with a position statement urging you to invest in community resources rather than new walls. Please listen to the people doing the work and do not commit this county to a horrible new jail site.

4. Bigger Jail bad idea because of ICE

Hello my name is _____. I am here tonight asking you to reject the Commissioner's request for funding for purchase of North Park. North Park has been chosen by them largely because it offers more space than downtown locations. But I ask, why do we need more space for a new jail? Given the direction this country and this state especially have been heading in, additional carceral infrastructure will certainly be co-opted for uses contrary to the values of this community. I am thinking of State Attorney General Todd Rokita's attempt to force this county to hold people kidnapped by ICE. While Sheriff Marte has so far stood up to the State, this will not be Marte's jail, and there is no guarantee the next Sheriff will be either inclined to resist the state or capable of doing so.

Very few people in this community look at the state of our country and think that what we need are more cages. I ask you to listen to the voices of your constituents who have been out protesting all year long calling for the county to resist Trump and resist ICE by *not* building this new jail.

5. The only fiscally responsible option is to renovate the existing jail.

Hello, my name is _____. I am here today to ask you not to commit additional tax dollars to a project that is both unnecessary and unaffordable. Our County simply cannot afford to build a new megajail on the outskirts of town at this time and we don't need to. The RQAW feasibility study published last year found that the current jail could be renovated for an estimated \$63 million, a fraction of the cost of a new jail. We are entering a period of austerity in which every tax dollar will be needed to keep vital community services afloat. Already this year the County has had to draw from the Economic Development Local Income tax, the proposed funding source for a new jail, to

balance the budget. The proposed new jail would tie up vital community resources for a generation to come, while renovating the existing jail would assure constitutional levels of care while leaving funding free to invest in our county's mental health and substance use treatment infrastructure. Please address the crisis in our jail in the fastest, most cost effective, and humane option: renovate the existing jail and do not invest additional time and money in an unneeded land purchase.