

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
FOR CHELAN COUNTY

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COMMISSIONERS

Lesley A. Allan, Judge
Department 1
T.W. Small, Judge
Department 2



Alicia H. Nakata, Judge
Department 3
Bart Vandegrift
Court Commissioner

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February 29, 2016

Sheilah Kennedy
Ray Campbell
Jim DeTro
Okanogan County Board of Commissioners
123 Fifth Avenue North, Room 150
Okanogan, WA 98840

Dear Commissioners DeTro, Kennedy, and Campbell,

In response to your request for input from agencies and the public regarding your options for housing juvenile offenders, in our experience the best option for your community is to maintain a local detention facility. However, we also want to advise you that, should you decide to rent bed space, Martin Hall is not your only option.

When we were a joint judicial district with Douglas County, we encountered logistical challenges to transporting newly arrested juveniles to Martin Hall and returning them for court hearings. The process involves an increased risk of escape, assault, and traffic accidents, and a corresponding exposure to potential liability.

There are also problems greater than those of mere logistics:

- Family bonds, essential to reducing recidivism, are undermined when parents can't easily visit their children.
- Relationships with probation staff and therapists are compromised when contact is interrupted.
- Youth who are not able to meet in person with their attorneys before court are less likely to receive adequate representation
- Hearings often run longer while attorneys counsel them in the courtroom.

Clearly, the interests of the community are best served by a detention facility located close to the children's homes, schools, treatment resources, and legal counsel.

February 29, 2016

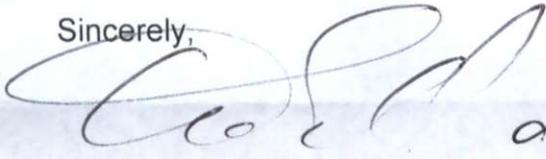
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However, we understand that other factors may preclude that option. Should it be necessary for you to close your facility and contract for bed space, we believe Chelan County can provide excellent services at a cost that is competitive with Martin Hall.

If you cannot maintain your local detention facility we hope you will consider contracting with Chelan County. Our juvenile administrator, Phil Jans, is available to meet with you, at your convenience, to discuss options. We are open to discuss and negotiate terms, including transportation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue.

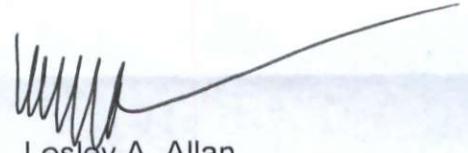
Sincerely,



T. W. Small
Superior Court Judge



Alicia H. Nakata
Superior Court Judge



Lesley A. Allan
Superior Court Judge

C: Judge Chris Culp
Judge Henry Rawson
Phil Jans