

Angela Hubbard

From: Don Abel <duckabel@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 4:28 PM
To: Perry Huston; Dennis Rabidou
Subject: Juvenile Detention

Dear County Commissioners,

I write against the proposed plan of closing the Juvenile Detention Center in Okanogan. There are numerous reasons to oppose this move:

1. The kids need to shape up and be held accountable at home, by their own community. No one will care about our kids like we do. Throwing them away to a facility in Medical Lake makes no sense and is bad for the future of the community.
2. Okanogan County families already have enough struggles. Adding the cost and logistics of traveling 100+ away to address situations with kids in trouble is unnecessary stress, expense and will further deteriorate our already fragile and struggling families.
3. Okanogan County already has a major problem with jobs. Throwing away the solid jobs created by the Juvenile Detention Center makes no sense. We need every job we have and then some. My mother and father both worked hard to establish the Juvenile Detention Center and I think that was then - and still is - good for the County.
4. Many communities run detention facilities at a profit, as I believe we attempt to do with our County Jail. Let's fix what may be broken in the economics of the Juvenile Detention Center and not throw away what little we have.
5. Okanogan County is in a state of rapid decline and we must do everything we can to build up the county, not tear it down and throw the pieces away. Our kids are worth more than this. Our families are worth more than this. Our economy is worth more than this.

Don Abel Riverside

Sent from my iPad