

February 3, 2016

To the Okanogan County Commissioners

Subject: Retention of the Juvenile Detention Center in the county

I am utterly opposed to your ill-advised move to transfer the Juvenile services to Martin Hall.

Rather than my enumerating the many reasons why this is a bad idea, I urge you to read both the editorial in this week's Chronicle, and Judge Burchard's opinion piece. Both offer good reasons why this transfer is a no-brainer that should never have been even considered in the first place.

I concur, as I am sure many others in the county do as well.

Does anyone really want their child locked up in a facility 140 miles away, and subject to God knows what kind of treatment over which they can have no knowledge or control?

Does anyone want to see juveniles placed in irons to make the trip and also have our law enforcement people tied up for several hours away from their posts? Have you even considered the wear and tear on vehicles, and the cost of gas for all this transporting?

I don't know where your idea came from...possibly an attempt once again to supposedly save money? You seem to be on a mission to contract out most county services without giving much consideration to the real costs involved. Is this really necessary? If so, then perhaps the Board should consider dropping all their expensive out-of-county attorneys and other personal crusades and use the money they save to finance the real needs of the citizens of this county.

Sincerely,

Jessica McNamara  
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