

The following questions collected at the January 23, 2007 Public Forum held at Simon Kenton High School in Independence, KY and their respective responses were mailed to the individual's address but are displayed here for public digest.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. Will we have the chance for a true public forum? I am not interested in yelling and screaming. I would like the opportunity to discuss my view in an intelligent way.

That was my exact intent for the forum on 1/23/07 however; despite the fact that the format of the meeting was publicized by the media and sent to Mr. Deters, he and others chose to disrupt that format and any chance of meaningful input on the issue. While I welcome any intelligent discussion on the matter, my faith in having such a forum in the near future was destroyed by Mr. Deters and others who simply choose to disrupt and play on emotion as opposed to intelligently discussing facts.

2. Will these inmates be transported to Covington or simply let loose at the jail after the termination of their sentence. I am very concerned about the fact there is a possibility that a recently released inmate could harm one of the students at Summit View.

This question assumes that every inmate in the Kenton County Jail will be from Covington or want to go there after release. For the calendar year 2006, Covington accounted for 37.65% of the total arrests in Kenton County. For that matter, 57% of all arrests in Kenton County for 2006 occurred outside of Covington, Park Hills, and Ft. Wright. With that said, the County Jailer has the authority and has made the commitment to develop a timed release program so that individuals are not released in the dead of night with nowhere to go. Rather, if no one with transportation comes and signs for/picks up someone released, then they will be released in concert with the TANK bus route schedule and not during the nighttime hours (i.e. 1am to 6am) for example.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. Please contact me Mr. Drees, Mr. Kimmich. You will not answer e-mail or your phones. Be a republican not a republicant. Find a better site.

I have no problem contacting you Mr. Shupe, but neither mine nor Mr. Kimmich's political affiliation is a factor in this matter and certainly will not be an influencing factor on how we conduct ourselves as public officials and public servants.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. Is it true that the proposed site does not conform to the KY Dept. of Corrections guidelines for this type of facility, i.e. distance/time to the Emergency Room, distance to Justice Center?

Since this is a County facility, the only State guidelines which would come into play would be those found in Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) chapter 15 – Jail Standards. These standards do not regulate either the distance/time to the ER or the Justice Center. So, No it is not true that this proposed facility is non-conforming to KY Dept. of Corrections guidelines for this type of facility.

2. What additional costs will be incurred as a result of choosing this particular site, i.e. financial impact on the surrounding area; site preparation?

There is a fiber-optic line that will need to be re-routed at an estimated cost of \$250,000 as well as grading and leveling routine with any site but certainly nothing extraordinary that would be required for any site other than the line. As for financial impact, internally, the County will benefit from a more cost efficient design as well as increased security for both the jail staff as well as the police bringing inmates in and last but not least, the citizens at-large. Externally, there is no study or experience with other such facilities that a jail creates an adverse economic impact on property values or increases potential for crime in that particular community.

3. What will happen to the homeless and intoxicated “residents” whom are routinely “housed”? Will they be released into our community?

The Jail does not release “intoxicated” individuals under any circumstances. As for homeless individuals who have satisfied their sentence, the County Jailer has the authority and has made the commitment to develop a timed release program so that individuals are not released in the dead of night with nowhere to go. Rather, if no one with transportation comes and signs for/picks up someone released, then they will be released in concert with the TANK bus route schedule and not during the nighttime hours (i.e. 1am to 6am) for example.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

If this is truly being read and not immediately being thrown away as it seems all of our e-mails have – I would appreciate a phone call or some sort of response at all. How sad is it that in a democracy – we should have to beg our government to respond to our concerns. My questions are as follows:

1. Why was our community not afforded the same courtesy as was given every other community who voted down this jail?

No Kenton County community has ever voted down a jail site. Only the Fiscal Court has the authority and responsibility to decide where the County Jail is located. Previous Fiscal Courts have backed away from proposed sites for various reasons but admittedly and largely due to community opposition. Their prior actions do not obligate this Fiscal Court in any way regarding how and what is the best solution for all of the citizen of Kenton County in this very important decision.

2. Why does this court continue to disrespect our citizens by refusing to have open dialogue?

The Fiscal Court has not and will not disrespect its citizens. It was my intention to have an open process at the public forum on 1/23/07, however, despite the fact that the format of the meeting was publicized by the media and sent to Mr. Deters, he and others chose to disrupt that format and any chance of meaningful input on the issue.

3. Why – because you found a flat spot of land – would you consider topography more important than the safety of children?

While land attributes such as topography of a site is important in making a selection such as this, it certainly is not the only factor. Safety for all concerned, including children, is also an extremely important factor in the site selection process. There simply is no belief on our part or anyone else whose has built or maintain such a facility that shows location of this new facility at its proposed location would increase the danger to anyone especially children, whether nearby or not.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. I see that the distance between the “prisons & jails” are larger according to your scale. Also I see nothing that shows years the jails and schools were built. Why and what are they?

The Boone County jail was built in 2005 and all of the developments highlighted on the map were ones that we developed either after the disclosure of the current jail location or in close proximity of said locations. Further, the Boone County Jail prior to its newest one was built in 1982 well before any of the aforementioned development and it is only a short distance from the current location. As for the Blackburn Correctional Complex was opened in 1972 all of the development highlighted in the map occurred within the last few years including a lot for a proposed school. As for the Luther Lockett Complex, dates back as late as 1936 but only to 1981 in its current layout. The highlighted development around the facility began in 1993 and continued through 2001.

2. What are the values of area homes?

Development around the Boone County Jail has been a mix of industrial and residential with the residential falling into the moderate range of home sale prices (\$150,000 and up). The same can be said for the other facilities as well.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. Are you scared?

No I am not scared as I believe this is the right thing to do for all of the citizen of Kenton County.

2. Is this why your not answering our questions?

I have made efforts to put information out into the media, on the county website and in public meetings, but unfortunately a number of individuals led by Mr. Eric Deters choose to attempt to drown out or disregard the information with emotion-laden demonstrations that have disruptive effects making it nearly impossible to have any intelligent discussion of facts regarding the matter.

3. Do you know what you are doing?

Yes, I am attempting to solve a county-wide corrections problem that has been in dire need of action for decades all the while trying to provide all of the citizens of Kenton County with the best possible location considering all relevant factors. In other words, I am doing my job as County Judge/Executive.

4. You have children and grandchildren. What if the jail was in your family’s backyard?

I would treat this decision no differently as I am committed to providing the safest and best location for the jail.

5. What would you do?

I would change nothing.

If they get released out of 90% they will not get caught. I'm begging you move this Jail!

Name and Address omitted for privacy

Interesting how you've compared the proposed site to Boone County's site. Their jail was there 1st, THEN developed around it – giving home owners/store owners a choice as to whether or not to buy a home/business. THIS area in Kenton Co. is already established/developed! THEY AREN'T THE SAME!

Actually the new jail was only built in 2005, the old jail was built in 1982. The map of the Boone County jail shows that county jails do not harm the economic development or residential development of a community as has been purported by opponents of the proposed jail site.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. I think there should be no jail in Independence because where would they go once they served there term?

Once an inmate serves their sentence in a jail in Covington or Independence or anywhere else for that matter, they are by law free for release and neither the County, City, State or Federal government has little to say about where they go (except in certain circumstances). With that said, the County Jailer has the authority and has made the commitment to develop a timed release program so that individuals are not released in the dead of night with nowhere to go. Rather, if no one with transportation comes and signs for/picks up someone released, then they will be released in concert with the TANK bus route schedule and not during the nighttime hours (i.e. 1am to 6am) for example.

2. Where would they go, in our backyard?

There simply is no expectation based upon the experience of hundreds of jails throught the nation that shows location of the new facility at its proposed location would increase the danger or potential for crime to anyone especially children, whether nearby or not.

I wouldn't be able to play in my backyard.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. Why do you want to harm us?

My responsibility as County Judge/Executive is not to harm anyone, but rather to provide a safe and effective solution to the county-wide corrections problem that has needed attention for decades. I am concerned with the safety of all citizens of Kenton County, all 152,000 of them.

2. Most importantly, why did you not let me talk in front of everybody?

I am elected to represent the interest of 152,000 citizens of Kenton County, just as it is your parents moral and legal responsibility to represent your interest until you reach the age of majority. Had I let you speak, I feel, would have only furthered the unnecessary

exploitation of the youth in this matter and continue the practice of instilling unfounded fears of increased danger in our children. I firmly believe that certain parents have done harm, perhaps irreparable to their children in manner in which they have conducted themselves in this matter.

3. Are you SCARED?

No

4. Are you afraid I might say something powerful?

No I am fearful of the long-term effects the tactics employed by a number of the jail site opponents will have on their youth.

YOU ARE A PITIFUL!!!

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. I just have to say that why would you want to put a jail in Independence. Because it is so close to schools and neighborhoods.

Unfortunately I have not been able to find a realistic site that is not located close to schools or residences. It is my responsibility to all of the citizens of Kenton County to select the best site possible and I believe that's what I have done.

YOU ARE VERY SICK

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. I just had one thing to say, what happens when they get released from jail at night when we are home alone and they need somewhere to stay. They will come to our house and probably attack us. What we will do?

There simply is no factual support for such a fear. I am unaware of any experience that demonstrates that the location of the new facility at its proposed location would increase the danger or potential for crime to anyone especially children, whether nearby or not. With that said, the County Jailer has the authority and has made the commitment to develop a timed release program so that individuals are not released in the dead of night with nowhere to go. Rather, if no one with transportation comes and signs for/picks up someone released, then they will be released in concert with the TANK bus route schedule and not during the nighttime hours (i.e. 1am to 6am) for example.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. I just want to say one thing, you really think this is the best place, with all of these children around?

I understand and appreciate your concern but there simply is no evidence that shows location of the new facility at its proposed location would increase the danger or potential for crime to anyone especially children, whether nearby or not. It is an inherent responsibility as County Judge/Executive that I along with the Fiscal Court select the safest and best site and I believe that's what I have done.

WELL YOU ARE VERY WRONG!!!

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. Why not just build the jail with school? ½ school; ½ jail

While I appreciate your sarcasm and concern but there simply is no evidence that shows location of the new facility at its proposed location would increase the danger or potential for crime to anyone especially children, whether nearby or not. It is an inherent responsibility as County Judge/Executive that I along with the Fiscal Court select the safest and best site and I believe that's what I have done.

Name and Address omitted for privacy

1. Please let me know why you would like to move the jail away from Covington schools?

The location of the Covington schools is not a reason for the location of the jail. I mentioned them in the context that the current jail has operated in nearly the same location for decades without incident or harm to those schools. That certainly does not make them the reason why the Fiscal Court chose the site we did.

2. I would also like to know why then is it okay to put the jail near Kenton Cty. Schools?

I am certainly not selecting any community over another one. It is an inherent responsibility as County Judge/Executive that I along with the Fiscal Court select the safest and best site and I believe that's what I have done. There simply is no evidence that shows location of the new facility at its proposed location would increase the danger or potential for crime to anyone especially children, whether nearby or not.

3. Why were we not given any say before any decisions were made?

I have used the prerogative granted to the office of the County Judge/Executive and operated wholly within the law as far as the site selection process goes. The actions of previous Fiscal Courts do not change the authority or responsibility of this Fiscal Court.

4. One minute you claim you changed the submission on deadline b/c of Eric Deters the next time the same question was asked you claimed you want to get the "ball rolling" on the Independence site. Which one is it?

At the January 9, 2007 Fiscal Court meeting I confirmed on the record what was reported in the newspaper that I along with the Court would consider an alternate site if it proved, pursuant to my criteria, to be superior to the current proposed location, since we would not be doing any major construction work for 6-8 months. At no time did I state that there was a deadline of 6 months to get alternate sites to the court. However, Mr. Deters stated on the record that he intended on getting all the alternate site information to the court by the end of the month (January, 2007). Again, since I did not state a deadline anytime prior, I issued a press release stating that I would accept information two weeks after Mr. Deters's stated he would complete his group's work. Even at the January 9th meeting and to Mr. Deters directly I stated on the record that the court would consider alternate sites but that we would still move forward with things such as hiring an architect "to keep the ball rolling" because any of the architect's work could be moved to a new site if one was superior to the current location.

5. Will you seriously consider other sites?

Yes, I have stated that many times. But I will also be very clear that the alternate site must be superior in terms of my site selection criteria to the current site. I am interested in providing the best location for Kenton County corrections long-term and will not jump at an inferior site just to bow to the opposition of a minority of the community. To do that would continue the cycle that has occurred in this county for decades and kill most if not all of the hope for a new facility in our life times.

6. Why have you not answered any of my phone calls or e-mails regarding this issue? I have left several phone messages and sent numerous e-mails.

I have made efforts to put information out into the media, on the county website and in public meetings, but unfortunately a number of individuals led by Mr. Eric Deters choose to attempt to drown out or disregard the information with emotion-laden demonstrations that have disruptive effects making it nearly impossible to have any intelligent discussion of facts regarding the matter.

The reason why we are so upset is your constant control over us and this issue.