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Subject: Personnel & Finance Committee - Comments on Agenda Items D2 & D3
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P&F Committee Members, I am writing in opposition to items D2 & D3 on the agenda for tonight's meeting. This historically costly project has been recognized for some years now as out of proportion for actual needs if the excellent programs to reduce the jail population and mitigate the harm that incarceration does, as well as to address the persistent problem of extremely disproportionate impact of the jail and the rest of the legal system on people of color and the poor is properly taken into account. It would appear that these efforts have NOT been taken into account.

The pandemic has forced a demonstration of what can be done, and more can be done if the County budget is not adversely impacted by this outsize expenditure for a facility & programs that inherently increase harm. This is counter to all our efforts to reduce harm through supporting peoples' unmet needs and those of their families. The choice is pretty clear.

I am an architect. I can tell you it takes relatively little effort to tear something of value down; much harder to build back. This principle applies to our fellow humans as it does to buildings. We've been mighty slow to change our priorities from the former to the latter. How about we step it up?

Regards, Ed

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"The best way to predict the future is to help create it."