

Angela Hubbard

From: koryh <koryh@remax.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2016 12:38 PM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: Comments for 2-23-16 meeting.

Dear County Commissioners:

I am writing regarding your current discussion pertaining to the Okanogan County juvenile detention facility, and the re-consideration of moving county juvenile services to Martin Hall.

I know I do not need to re-state every pro and con of this discussion, as I am well aware that you are being inundated with information and opinions. I appreciate you taking the time to review each detail, good and bad, for and against. Instead, I want to ask you in this letter to focus on only one item: What is best for kids. Our kids.

We as parents know that the best influence on our children, is and always will be, ourselves. That is true whether our child is standing atop a podium in honor or victory, or struggling to make it through life's simplest daily challenges. That means that SOMEONE must be available and involved in a child's life. For those kids that may not have the best family situation, then that influence must come from other places; namely, the community that is home. To remove a child who is most in need from that influence, is the equivalent of shutting the door and turning a blind eye. We as a county and community should not and can not do that.

I know that a major part of this discussion is money; How to save it, spend it, and justify it. Great. Glad it is part of the discussion, but on the list of priorities, it should not be number one. When it comes to providing services to the children of this community, it should not even be in the top five. Let's face it, we must pay taxes to have the services we depend on in this society. Do we necessarily like it? Not really. But any reasonable person who drives on a road, gets a permit, records a document, or utilizes any of the hundreds of other public services knows, paying taxes to support those services is a part of life.

I will dodge more potholes. I will stand in line at the courthouse a little longer. I will wait longer for my permit, or my recorded document. None of those services trump taking care of our kids.

Spending money to provide life-changing, or even life-saving services to the children of our community, or any community, is not a burden. It is a core necessity for all of us, and for those kids we can help.

Go ahead and interject here all of the other facts and opinions you have heard on this matter, such as jobs and economy; local control; facility repair, replacement, and maintenance - all part of the equation you are analyzing. But, from my letter please absorb one thing:

Do what is best for kids. Our kids.

If it is your child (who in your mind is a good kid who you love no matter what) is taking a ride to juvenile tonight (mine did-worst thing for me-best thing that could have happened to him at that time in his young life), where do you want him or her? In your community, or 136 miles away?

Ideally, (but unrealistically) at this point I would want you to terminate this proposal to eliminate this needed service for our community, bang the gavel, go to lunch, then get on with other business. Realistically, I know you will hear all sides, discuss and contemplate, and make some hard decisions.

Hopefully, you hear me and so many others in this community - Do what is best for kids: Our kids.

Bang the gavel.

Sincerely,

Kory and Gay Heindselman