

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov
To: [Pamela S. Ulmer](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:01:55 PM

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Submitted on: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 - 7:01pm

Name: Dr. Johonna Turner

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/12/2021

Agenda Item Number: 9a

Comment:

I teach restorative justice at Eastern Mennonite University. I ask the City Council to prevent the expansion of Middle River Regional Jail and invest in alternatives to incarceration which are more effective in building safer, healthier and sustainable communities.

Contact: Yes

Contact Info: johonna.turner@emu.edu

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov
To: [Pamela S. Ulmer](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:59:40 PM

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Submitted on: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 - 6:59pm

Name: Julian Turner

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Sun, 01/12/2020

Agenda Item Number: 9a

Comment:

I ask the City Council to prevent the expansion of Middle River Regional Jail. We must continue to put our resources into the community needs including affordable housing, mental health and substance use disorder services, food assistance, and sustainable approaches to safety and justice that do not depend upon prisons and policing. We must also invest in alternatives to incarceration, which are more effective in creating safer and healthier communities.

Contact: Yes

Contact Info: 202-834-9526

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov
To: [Pamela S. Ulmer](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:06:47 PM

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Submitted on: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 - 6:06pm

Name: Molly Skidmore

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/12/2021

Agenda Item Number: 9

Comment:

As a resident of Harrisonburg and a member of Virginia Organizing I strongly oppose the proposed expansion of the Middle River Regional Jail and ask the Harrisonburg City Council to oppose the expansion as well.

Contact: No

Contact Info:

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov
To: [Pamela S. Ulmer](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 5:56:02 PM

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Submitted on: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 - 5:55pm

Name: Judith G Wright

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/12/2021

Agenda Item Number: Proposal to enlarge MRRC

Comment:

Please do not spend money to enlarge MRRC. We need better ways to deal with criminal justice problems.

Judith G.Wright 4200 Countryside Drive, Dayton VA 22821

Contact: No

Contact Info:

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov
To: [Pamela S. Ulmer](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:37:22 PM

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Submitted on: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 - 3:37pm

Name: Isabel Castillo

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/12/2021

Agenda Item Number: Public comment: No jail expansion

Comment:

I urge you to vote no on anything related to jail expansion at Middle River Regional Jail or here in Harrisonburg/Rockingham County. We need to turn away from jail expansion to more promising, community-based solutions. Our city is need of affordable housing, a second high school, and many other community needs and need to focus our resources on these important matters not more incarceration/jail expansion.

Thank you,

Isabel

Contact:

Contact Info:

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov
To: [Pamela S. Ulmer](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:38:03 PM

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Submitted on: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 - 2:37pm

Name: Anne W Nielsen

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 12/22/2020

Agenda Item Number: MRRJ expansion

Comment:

We have a criminal justice planner who has many thoughts about this expansion that would negate or reduce the need. The Valley Justice Coalition has been opposing this issue from the beginning. If other states can reduce incarceration, I'm sure we can. When up to 30% of those locked up in our jails have known mental health issues, resolution should be begin with mental health personnel, not the police. Thanks, Anne Nielsen

Contact: No

Contact Info:

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov
To: [Pamela S. Ulmer](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:08:42 PM

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Submitted on: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 - 3:08pm

Name: Cynthia A Hunter
Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council
Date of Meeting: Wed, 01/13/2021
Agenda Item Number: 1/13/2021
Comment:

Esteemed Council Members,

As a social worker and justice advocate, I write in opposition to jail expansion. Feeding a system that detains people who are not yet proven guilty (innocent until proven...) is unjust and not in accordance with tenets of basic human rights. To help us envision a system that can work FOR us and not against us, I defer to a TED Talk "What if we ended the injustice of bail?" This video shows how abolishing the bail system can not only increase productivity and save families but save our system millions of costs from jailing non-violent offenders. [HTTPS://www.ted.com/talks/robin_steinberg_what_if_we_ended_the_injustice_of_bail?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/robin_steinberg_what_if_we_ended_the_injustice_of_bail?language=en)

Thank you to Council Members Dent and Romero for your early rejection of this expansion, I urge others to join them.

Cindy Hunter, Harrisonburg, VA

Contact: No
Contact Info: cynthiaahunter@gmail.com