

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 9:14:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

## Michael Parks

Director of Communications

[Michael.Parks@HarrisonburgVA.gov](mailto:Michael.Parks@HarrisonburgVA.gov)

City Manager's Office  
409 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

540-432-7701 ■ Office  
540-432-7778 ■ Fax  
540-476-3038 ■ Cell



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---

**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 9:13 AM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, May 24, 2021 - 9:12am

**Name:** Linda A Dove

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Wed, 05/26/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** MRRJ

**Comment:**

I join many other citizens and residents of the city and county in opposing our cooperation in expanding the jail. For many years we have asked for full details of the reasons why the number of jailed people keeps rising and measures to ameliorate that situation. Despite the appointment of someone to collect and analyze data, no adequate explanations or measures have been taken. I do not want my taxes to fund this boondoggle of an injustice.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 9:36:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 9:35 AM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, May 24, 2021 - 9:34am

**Name:** Alexander Pellegrino

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** No Money For MRRJ Expansion

**Comment:**

Thank you all for continuing to hear our voices and standing strong regarding the proposed funding for MRRJ.

I want to submit a comment to reiterate the strong desire in Harrisonburg for divesting from policing and incarceration and investing in our communities.

I understand that some of the funds may be listed as line items to support building renovations and mental health services. Money for the jail is still investing in keeping people locked up. I strongly oppose more money for even these services at MRRJ.

We don't need people being locked up and having slightly more access to mental health resources.

The best thing for their mental health is to get them out of that cage.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:05:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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540-432-7778    ■ Fax  
540-476-3038    ■ Cell



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---

**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:05 PM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, May 17, 2021 - 5:04pm

**Name:** Christi Hoover Seidel

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** MRRJ Mental Health Beds

**Comment:**

I am writing to ask you not to support the addition of 48 Mental Health beds at Middle River Regional Jail. Jail is bad for mental health. Please invest in community based quality mental health treatment.

Thank you.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 10:47:06 AM

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 24, 2021 at 10:44:41 AM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, May 24, 2021 - 10:44am

**Name:** Ramona Sanders

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** Community Forum Period

**Comment:**

I would prefer that you invest in social programs rather than investing in jail expansion. "No funding for MRRJ expansion".

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 3:08:22 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 24, 2021 at 3:06:24 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, May 24, 2021 - 3:06pm

**Name:** Judith Wright

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** No funding for MRRJ. Please.

**Comment:**

Needs: Therapeutic service. Trained counselors and medical personnel.

Opportunity for guidance and support for life--clothes, toilets, laundry, and other necessities. NOT jail.

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:05:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:05 PM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, May 17, 2021 - 5:04pm

**Name:** Christi Hoover Seidel

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** MRRJ Mental Health Beds

**Comment:**

I am writing to ask you not to support the addition of 48 Mental Health beds at Middle River Regional Jail. Jail is bad for mental health. Please invest in community based quality mental health treatment.

Thank you.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 9:13:40 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**Submitted on:** Monday, May 24, 2021 - 9:12am

**Name:** William H. Dent, Jr.

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** Expansion of MRRJ is not in the public interest

**Comment:**

While overcrowding in jails is dangerous, expanding jails to provide for the mentally ill is not an appropriate response. Jails are not designed to provide good mental health services. We may need to spend more for good mental health services, but then we would be buying services designed for their intended purpose, and we would thereby make better use of public funds.

Besides I believe that stopping excessive use of jails to hold people waiting trial can also save public money and make better provision for public safety.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**



**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 4:00:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:59 PM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 3:58pm

**Name:** Hannah Wittmer

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** 9a

**Comment:**

In January, when major expansions were being proposed, the "potential support services" options were listed as \$9,031,007 and included "Add Administration space to meet demand for additional staff that comes with expansion."

Now that there is no expansion in the form of new beds, it seems that there should not be "additional staff that comes with expansion."

However, it seems that the jail board is still proposing \$9,031,007 for "support services."

Please reject any such proposal.

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:** [hannah.wittmer@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.wittmer@gmail.com)

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 4:04:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

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540-476-3038   ■ Cell



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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 4:04 PM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 4:03pm

**Name:** Theresa Kubasak, Gabe Huck  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021  
**Agenda Item Number:** 9a  
**Comment:**

Dear members of City Council,

Please continue to support NO additional beds at Middle River.

We need instead to face up to how we waste people's lives with incarceration. People experiencing poverty, joblessness, mental health issues and lack of funds for housing need to be served in another way, not by being sent to jail or prison. We live in downtown Harrisonburg and have come to know some of our most vulnerable citizens. Incarceration is not the answer. Thank you.

Gabe Huck and Theresa Kubasak  
91 1/2 Franklin St. Harrisonburg 22801

**Contact:** No  
**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:07:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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540-476-3038   ■ Cell



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---

**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 4:57 PM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 4:56pm

**Name:** Heidi Jablonski

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** 9a

**Comment:**

I am writing in opposition to the proposed expansion to the Middle River Regional Jail. Adding more beds under the guise of "mental health" is NOT an acceptable or appropriate expansion. Jail is not a solution to mental illness, homelessness, poverty, or addiction. This expansion would be detrimental to the health of our community, and it's most vulnerable members. Please fund and support social services, community resources, and social supports that will build up our community, not further incarcerate people who need help.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:** [heidih0.6@gmail.com](mailto:heidih0.6@gmail.com)

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:07:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## Michael Parks

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[Michael.Parks@HarrisonburgVA.gov](mailto:Michael.Parks@HarrisonburgVA.gov)

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801

540-432-7701    ■ Office  
540-432-7778    ■ Fax  
540-476-3038    ■ Cell



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---

**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:02 PM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 5:02pm

**Name:** Caroline Prendergast

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** 9a

**Comment:**

I'm writing to urge the City Council to oppose any form of expansion at the Middle River Regional Jail. The MRRJ has repeatedly demonstrated its inability to care for the needs--mental health and otherwise--of those incarcerated there. The bed expansion does not reflect an effective way to treat the mental health needs of our community: instead, I urge the City Council to consider allocating the resources that would be spent on MRRJ on more effective, non-carceral solutions to the problems faced by our neighbors.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 11:04:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:55 AM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 10:54am

**Name:** Eric Olson-Getty  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021  
**Agenda Item Number:** 9a

**Comment:**

I am concerned about the possible proposal to revive plans to expand the Middle River Regional Jail by adding "mental health" beds. This is no more than expansion disguised as concern for mental health. Jail is NOT mental health care. Incarceration only further traumatizes people who need community-based support systems to heal and thrive. You stood against the first attempt to expand the jail. I hope you will remain steadfast in your opposition to this new, repackaged version of the same.

**Contact:** No  
**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 1:31:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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---

**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 1:29 PM  
**To:** Michael E. Parks <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 1:29pm

**Name:** Nick Phillips

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** 9a

**Comment:**

There have been reports online that Middle River Regional Jail is considering expansions for a "mental health unit". If these reports are true, I hope the City Council continues to oppose expansion without first examining the root causes of over incarceration. And if there are renovations planned to increase mental health services, which would be great, I hope the City Council takes the necessary steps to ensure that inmates actually receive improved mental health support, and this isn't just expansion under another guise.

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:** My preferred contact is via email at [nphominoid@gmail.com](mailto:nphominoid@gmail.com).



**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:20:46 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 3:04:53 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

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**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 3:03pm

**Name:** Elaine Taylor Blakey  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6

**Comment:**

I do not support the MRRJ expansion. There are better methods to assisting those who are jailed for minimal crimes or health issues besides a locked facility.

**Contact:** No  
**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:44:46 PM

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 3:39:43 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

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**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 3:39pm

**Name:** Taylor Evans

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** 9a (other matters comments from the public).

**Comment:**

Regarding the addition of more beds to the Middle River Regional Jail - I am STILL opposed to any additional beds at Middle River Regional Jail (MRRJ) or expansion disguised as "support services." Jail is not a solution for mental illness, addiction, homelessness, or poverty -- we need investment in social programs outside the jail system rather than investment in jail expansion.

**Contact:**

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:22:07 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 5:21:38 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 5:21pm

**Name:** Jessica Williams-Chase  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021  
**Agenda Item Number:** 9a  
**Comment:**

I oppose any expansion of the MRRJ, including beds designated for "mental health" or any other "support services." As a mental health professional, I feel strongly that jail is not the appropriate place for persons with mental health concerns to receive treatment or rehabilitation. It is essential that we fund and develop additional programs to help those with serious mental health concerns.

Thank you for your time.

**Contact:** No  
**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:26:37 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 5:26:01 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 5:25pm

**Name:** Tracy stover

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Wed, 05/26/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** Jail expansion

**Comment:**

I am commenting about the jail expansion at middle river regional jail. I am strongly opposed to it. Disguising the expansion by suggesting they are adding mental health beds is a falsehood. The superintendent himself has admitted that the facility is not equipped to be a mental health facility. Adding more beds is just a way of adding more inmates without solving the problem of overcrowding in our jails and the need for criminal justice reform! Say no please to the jail expansion!!!

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 5:57:31 PM

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 5:56:17 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

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**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 5:56pm

**Name:** Corey Chandler  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021  
**Agenda Item Number:** 9a  
**Comment:**

I urge this body to devote resources to community mental health services rather than consider expanding 48 mental health beds in Middle River Regional Jail. To quote from a January 2021 article in the Staunton News Leader, "Superintendent Jeffrey Newton from Middle River Regional Jail stated at the Waynesboro City Council meeting that the jail only had part-time psychiatrists and he felt that was sufficient since the jail is not a mental health treatment facility."

True words. MRRJ is not a mental health facility, it is a cage. Adding designated mental health beds would do nothing to change that. I have been incarcerated at MRRJ; I have accessed what is considered mental health services at MRRJ. Superintendent Newton's assessment of the reality of the situation is accurate. What this expansion would amount to is 48 more beds in the same facility, with the same staff and the same resources that are present now.

Our community does need more mental health resources, but not in jail. This is just an attempt by MRRJ to gain approval for expansion under the pretext of mental health. Please devote the resources to where they are desperately needed and properly belong: in our community.

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:** Email: [corey@ourcommunityplace.org](mailto:corey@ourcommunityplace.org)

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 6:55:25 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 6:35:56 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

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**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 6:35pm

**Name:** Mia Greenwald  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021  
**Agenda Item Number:** 9a  
**Comment:**

I'm writing to say that I am emphatically against adding more beds to the Middle River Regional Jail under the guise of mental health. People do desperately need mental health services, but this seems to be exploiting that fact to add beds and expand the jail in an underhanded way. I am opposed to ANY new beds, no matter how MRRJ may try to disguise them. Mental health, along with homelessness and poverty, do need to be addressed, but they need to be addressed in a non-carceral way. Jail is absolutely not a solution, and only makes these things worse.

**Contact:** Yes  
**Contact Info:** miagreenwald@gmail.com

**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 5:19:14 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 24, 2021 at 5:16:23 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

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**Submitted on:** Monday, May 24, 2021 - 5:16pm

**Name:** Earl S Martin

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021

**Agenda Item Number:** No funding for Middle River Regional Jail

**Comment:**

As a father who has had a son who struggled with mental illness and accompanying addiction issues, I had to visit my son various times in jail, sometimes through glass and microphones. It was a wrenching experience each time. And I longed for him to be able rather to spend time in a therapeutic setting that would have attended to his illness and treated his addiction. Happily, those days are behind us (we trust) and he has become a very successful furniture maker.

So I plead with you, my friends in the Harrisonburg City Council, not to fund more beds for jail, but to place those resources into therapeutic settings which would address the illnesses some of our neighbors are experiencing.

Thank you, Earl S. Martin, 1013 College Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:** patearl@aol.com

or phone: 540-908-1480





**From:** [Michael E. Parks](#)  
**To:** [Amy E. Snider](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 3:20:37 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov via HarrisonburgVA.gov"  
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 3:03:11 PM EDT  
**To:** "Michael E. Parks" <Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**  
**Reply-To:** "HarrisonburgVA.gov" <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>

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**Submitted on:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 3:02pm

**Name:** Elaine Taylor Blakey  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 05/25/2021  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6

**Comment:**

I do not support the MRRJ expansion. There are better methods to assisting those who are jailed for minimal crimes or health issues besides a locked facility.

**Contact:** No  
**Contact Info:**