

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 7:28 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on: Sunday, January 24, 2021 - 7:28pm

Name: Hannah Bailey

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021

Agenda Item Number: ?

Comment:

Please do not expand our city jail! Instead of increasing our capability to incarcerate people, we need to increase services for healthcare, education... etc. Our number of incarcerations is disproportionate to the rest of the country and black and brown people are disproportionately represented. Harrisonburg residents do not want a bigger jail!

Contact: No

Contact Info:

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 7:18 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
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Submitted on: Sunday, January 24, 2021 - 7:18pm

Name: Kathleen Temple
Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council
Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021
Agenda Item Number: About MRRJ expansion
Comment:

We must NOT allocate any of our already scarce public money to expand the Middle River Regional Jail! Rather, alternatives to incarceration should be used! And if there are not adequate alternatives to incarceration, alternatives should be found! Create alternatives, if need be! Incarceration and the expansion of it is so wrong. Particularly as we are in the middle of a devastating pandemic and attendant recession, the dollars must be used to meet the needs of persons and families and neighborhoods, NO EXPANSION OF INCARCERATION!

Kathleen Temple, Rockingham, VA 22802

Contact: Yes
Contact Info: For text: 540-574-4311 For email: templekj@comcast.net

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
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Submitted on: Sunday, January 24, 2021 - 1:39pm

Name: Glenda Leonard

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021

Agenda Item Number: 1

Comment:

I do NOT want to see MRRJ enlarged.

We/ The Harrisonburg community need to put resources toward helping to get those incarcerated out and into healthy members of our community. We need to help meet the needs of our community members so they don't need to break laws to survive. We need to work feverishly to create communities that listen to and assist those communities within Harrisonburg to "really" help them. What are their needs and how can our community come alongside and support those needs?

Contact: No

Contact Info: glendaleonard71@gmail.com

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 7:49 AM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on: Sunday, January 24, 2021 - 7:48am

Name: William Carson

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021

Agenda Item Number: N/A

Comment:

I'm William Carson, I'm a resident of Harrisonburg and I strongly oppose any use of my tax dollars to expand Middle River Regional Jail.

Contact: No

Contact Info:

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on: Saturday, January 23, 2021 - 9:33am

Name: Ingrid Manning

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021

Agenda Item Number: 4a

Comment:

At this council meeting (1/26/21) you are being presented with a plan for expanding the Middle River Regional Jail. Soon you will be asked to approve funds for such an expansion. I urge you strongly to vote NO to this request.

We already jail our neighbors at a high rate. Do we have more irredeemable humans in our community than other regions? No. This is a choice. We have chosen to invest in jails rather than in people. We have chosen to lock up neighbors accused of non-violent crimes. We have chosen to take away their rights even before they have been convicted. If we expand the jail, we will fill it again.

Rather than spending millions of dollars to fit more of our neighbors into cells with no means of contributing to our communities, let's invest in strategies that build trust, resiliency, and opportunity. This is not a new problem to humanity and there are many organizations providing research and concrete steps to help communities make a better, more ethical, sustainable choice. Vote NO to MRRJ expansion.

Contact: Yes

Contact Info: Email

Ingrid.m.manning@gmail.com

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 9:09 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on: Friday, January 22, 2021 - 9:08pm

Name: Heather Joffe Reyes

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021

Agenda Item Number: Middle River Regional Jail

Comment:

I'm a Harrisonburg resident and I strongly oppose jail expansion. We should invest those resources in social services, economic growth, and prevention rather than more incarceration.

Contact: Yes

Contact Info: heatherlydiajoffe@yahoo.com

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
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Submitted on: Friday, January 22, 2021 - 3:29pm

Name: Joshua Diamond

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021

Agenda Item Number: 8

Comment:

I am saddened and frustrated to see our community, once again, considering whether to spend more money on locking people up. It wasn't too long ago we sat down at the public table to demand we don't build a new jail; that we fund people not cell bars and pods, and that we move towards a vision of community where jails are not needed. I know it pains a number of you on council to be here once again, and to be at the helm of other decision makers and institutions who may not share your, or our, values. Knowing this, I pray for your strength and for your boldness in confronting the amoral, racist death machine that is our carceral system. Vote for life, not death, even if it means upsetting the status quo between us and our neighbors. Thank you for your leadership in making this a place of love and life. Vote no on jail expansion.

Contact:

Contact Info:

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on: Thursday, January 21, 2021 - 3:17pm

Name: Corey Chandler

Type of Meeting: Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Meeting: Tue, 01/26/2021

Agenda Item Number: 4a

Comment:

As I travel from my downtown apartment to Eastern Mennonite University where I attend classes, I pass the recently repurposed Red Front Supermarket building. Over the past months, my heart has swelled from seeing members of my community provided with a place to sleep, meals, and even haircuts. While it is heartbreaking to see so many residents of Harrisonburg experience homelessness, I see the best of my community when I pass what was once Red Front. These are the beds we should be providing, not beds in a jail cell. Harrisonburg residents deserve resources provided for them in their own community and not to be shipped off down the road to a facility that exposed their residents to COVID. I urge this council to vote against an expansion of Middle River Regional Jail, whose only interests are in expanding bed space and likewise, profits. Harrisonburg residents, especially those justice involved, deserve more than MRRJ can offer. Our community can offer better solutions than incarceration. Please vote for your City and Community and not in the best interests in a privately-owned enterprise that exists to turn beds and make profits.

Contact: Yes

Contact Info: corey.chandler@emu.edu