



ALBEMARLE-CHARLOTTESVILLE REGIONAL JAIL

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Colonel Martin Kumer
Superintendent

ACRJ Renovation / Expansion Online Community Survey

Option 1 Comments:

- a. Pick this one
- b. Option 1 renovates the West Wing and does nothing with the East Wing. I think the state will support that financially as it would be an upgrade toward meeting code. With double bunking and the decreasing population the East Wing might not even be needed.
- c. The original plan in 2019 was to renovate the HVAC and other utility systems. That makes the most sense considering the jail population is decreasing. There is an emphasis on electronic monitoring and the average stay for most folks is 2 days. The money saved could go toward services our community actually needs like detoxification centers, homeless shelters, grants to help unhoused folks find housing and having one of the best mental health systems in the state/country. You think you are dreaming big but your scope is extremely limited.
- d. The 2 lowest tiers were not designed with priorities in mind Architect Bell explained that an arbitrary number like \$20 million was decided upon and the decision was made not to touch the east wing as it is the only place in the jail where another floor could be added in the future. We are currently here to discuss a renovation and we are already planning another one in the future.

Option 1A:

- a. Option 1A does systems which I doubt would get state money. Option 1A could be done through a maintenance plan.
- b. If mental health rooms were a priority, why are they only in option 3? Furthermore, a real recreation area is required.

Option 2:

- a. Do not pick this one.
- b. Option 2 is likely to get the state reimbursement so it will cost less. They will cover attempts to meet code. But it is still a lot of money especially since the population is below rated capacity and will continue to decrease.
- c. An outdoor recreation area needs to be added. This needs to be a real recreation area with access to sunlight. A metal cage is not required for recreation areas.

Option 3:

- a. Do not pick this one.
- b. Option 3 is too costly. We need to spend money to prevent incarceration. It isn't needed. There is already space that can be reconfigured. The jail population will continue to drop more slowly than recently, but still it will drop. There is evidence that the Marcus Alert program will keep lots of people out of jail. It seems as though the population most apt to benefit from Option is Facility Administration. I oppose additional solitary confinement spaces. They are considered torture by the UN. This option will not meet code so that shouldn't be a primary reason to choose it over other options. There are many more reasons to oppose Option 3 but these are the most important to me.
- c. You have not worded the description of this option neutrally. By telling the survey participants that this option is the one already underway, you attempt to muzzle those who may think this option is wrong. Why should we care that the Board of Local and Regional Jails already approved this? You went ahead, without community engagement with this plan and that's why it's already been approved. Our society is evolving past mass incarceration and those of us in the younger generations do not want to be saddled with paying for something that we are working toward making obsolete in the next decades. Some members of the community have been asking you to slow down for over a year now. What's the rush? If you really think we need to spend so much money, then you must have community awareness and approval.
- d. A 17,500 square foot expansion is NOT necessary. Large parts of the 2000 section sits unused. If there isn't enough staff for the newer section as is, how can there be enough staff with an expansion? Offering higher salaries is not enough to attract and maintain staff in carceral facilities. Adding mental health rooms also means enough mental health staff be hired.

Additional Comments:

- a. Pick option 1; less is better
- b. Please read the article at https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2024/02/cautionary_jails/. It outlines real world examples of the failures of projects identical or nearly identical to this one.
- c. A large scale renovation is not the best use of taxpayer dollars. It does not disrupt current injustices. For instance, jails should not be the largest provider of mental health services. Continuing to fund herculean jail renovations only further entrenches injustices such as these.
- d. I was surprised 2/29/24 to see the photo of what the "outdoor recreation area" might look like. It isn't "outdoors" at all. It has 4 solid walls and a half roof. It was stated that because it was adjacent to open areas, it had to have solid walls. I don't see why open wire fences can't be used. I do not support the expenditure on an "outdoor" recreation area with 4 solid walls at a cost of \$709,129 for any of the options. This is what is meant by community participation in the design.