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To: [agenda comments](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Comments

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A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name: Comment on Agenda Items
Date & Time: 10/26/2020 5:10 pm
Response #: 830
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Time to complete: 3 min. , 20 sec.

Survey Details: Answers Only

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1. Pastor Kelly Dahlman-Oeth
2. Kirkland
3. (o) Not Applicable
4. pastorkel@gmail.com
5. 10/26/2020
6. 8. A. Ordinance 906
7. A few decades ago, we used the word "rehabilitation" when we spoke of our legal system's use of detention and incarceration. Sometime during the 70's and 80's the word, any effort toward real rehabilitation fell out of favor. As the country swallowed the racist rhetoric of "law and order," it traded rehabilitative efforts for punitive ones.
The "war on crime," the "war on drugs," "three-strikes" laws, cash bail, court fees and fines, etc. helped build one the prison industrial complex in America. There is no shortage of evidence that the weight of this investment has been born on the backs of Black, Brown, Indigenous and Poor people.
According to the Prison Policy Initiative:
- the U.S. government spends over \$80 billion on public prisons and jails and another \$3.9 billion on private prisons and jails.
- The percentage of formerly incarcerated individuals who are employed is 27%.
- Over 4000 companies profit from mass incarceration.
The overall result of our efforts is what many of us now call the "criminalization of poverty." While the population is still under the misguided impression that poverty and homelessness is a result of moral failing, the real immorality is our nation's willingness to continue to profit from the imprisonment of Black, Brown, Indigenous and poor people.
While I could not find the most recent numbers for Shoreline's contract, in 2018, the South Correctional Entity (SCORE) charged the City of Federal Way \$260 per bed, per night. For \$260 per night, I could have booked a room today at the Westin in Bellevue for \$170 per night.
I'm sure all of my unhoused friends would be happy for the city to save money by putting them up in the Westin, instead of packing them into a pod with 20 other people.
Some have suggested that we need a "law and order" solution to homelessness and the opioid epidemic. We need only look at the last 50 years to see how well that has worked. If the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results, then it is time we accept America's diagnosis. Not only can we not "police" our way out of this crisis, continuing down this path will eventually bankrupt the city as more tax dollars will be siphoned away from human services, parks and recreation and other services to fund burgeoning cost for law enforcement, jail, and courts. We certainly know that our jails and prisons will not "rehabilitate" anyone out of homelessness and poverty.
I urge the City Council to pass Ordinance 906 – Interim Zoning to allow for the proposed Enhanced Shelter to begin housing our unhoused neighbors.

Thank you,
Pastor Kelly Dahlman-Oeth
Lead Pastor
Ronald United Methodist Church
17839 Aurora AVE N
Shoreline, WA
8. (o) Support

Thank you,
City of Shoreline

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