

From: [PAMELA FERNALD](#)
To: [PC Public Comment](#); [Carl Cole](#)
Subject: halfway houses lack transparency and oversight
Date: Monday, October 31, 2022 5:14:34 PM

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of City of SeaTac -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

and there are frequently items in the news to show the giant holes in this Department of Correction (DOC) system.

With all of the schools, parks, hotels and an international airport in our city, we are only setting ourselves up to be open to more and different crime by adding a halfway house that may or may not be effectively and safely run. (see the prison policy stuff below.)

One of the things that makes our city desirable to the DOC in this instance is that we also have 3 light rail stations near where they are looking to put the halfway house, and those light rail stations already have their own problems with crime. (I am not a light rail fan.)

See the article below which includes this excerpt:

- **["We graded the parole release systems of all 50 states - Washington gets an F-"](#)**

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/WA.html>

and

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/09/03/halfway/>

More halfway house related info:

<https://www.wawp.uscourts.gov/sites/wawp/files/HalfwayHouseRules.pdf>

Is the halfway house that has been proposed for SeaTac a for profit business?

<https://www.openupahalfwayhouse.com/post/how-much-profit-can-be-made-from-a-halfway-house>

I have already given comments during the previous DOC Zoom meetings with the city and won't repeat them here at this time.

Besides already having more than our share of public essential facilities in our small city, the City of SeaTac needs to be concerned with the safety of its' residents, and the negative economic effect that a halfway house could bring when travelers and visitors and convention goers realize the close proximity of a halfway house. (You can use Re Entry Facility if you'd like, but it is still incarceration).

Not saying that this program can't be beneficial for some, and I wish them success. People can, and have turned their lives around--even without halfway houses. *But I am thinking of our entire city and want to thoroughly weigh the pros and cons of a halfway house and all of the ways it could/would affect our resident population. We need to be very, very thoughtful and prudent in this matter.*

Halfway houses/work release facilities are not are not a given--and remember, being in a halfway house/work release facility is STILL considered being incarcerated! Please keep foremost in your thinking the safety of our residents and the economic vitality of our city. Please be sure to read data I have included which alerts us to the lack of transparency and lack of oversight of such facilities.

Can our staff or the DOC can show us a models of halfway houses that are run in an accountable, open and transparent manner? If so, I would like to see the information.

Maybe this issue should be a ballot issue so that SeaTac residents can weigh in on it.

If this halfway house issue moves forward to the council, will there be a public meeting?

Thank you for your attention. You may share my email as you see fit.

I am submitting my email above as written public comment for the

record at the 11/1/222 Planning Commission meeting.

Thank you.

Pam Fernald