

Resolution No. _____

Resolution offered by Alderman Gripp.

RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Davenport, Iowa.

RESOLUTION opposing any plans to redevelop the site at West 4th and Warren Streets for a new, larger Scott County Juvenile Detention Center.

WHEREAS, the Davenport City Council is aware that the Scott County Board of Supervisors will soon be required by state mandate to house incarcerated youthful offenders separately from incarcerated adults; and

WHEREAS, the Council acknowledges that the existing Juvenile Detention Center at West 4th Street and Western Avenue is not adequate in providing space or services required for the young people in the County's care; and

WHEREAS, the Davenport City Council is also seeking solutions to address the community's concerns related to youth, crime, and public safety including the recent implementation of the Youth Assessment Program (YAP), which is a community-based initiative to address emerging issues of children and their families by providing professional counseling and referral with the goal of setting them on a more positive path; and

WHEREAS, the Davenport City Council cannot support any plan to redevelop the site at West 4th and Warren Streets to house a larger Juvenile Detention Center for the following reasons:

- *Neighborhood Impact:* The site is adjacent to urban, diverse neighborhoods all within low/moderate income Census tracts where many families are already struggling with poverty, housing issues, transient residents, disinvestment, and a relatively high incidence of crime. A detention center here does nothing to enhance or improve their lives.
- *Economic Redevelopment Impact:* Recent investment in Davenport's downtown area has begun to reverse decades of decline. Downtown is now the City's fastest growing neighborhood where residents both live and work. The Davenport Downtown Partnership's recent strategic plan promotes continued revitalization across the area.

The next opportunity is growth to the west. Removing half a City block as a source of property and sales tax revenue negates that opportunity. New businesses, shops, or restaurants will not locate next to a detention center.

- *Transportation, Access, and Environment:* The site is located between West 4th and West 5th Streets. West 4th is one way traveling west. West 5th is a historic, narrow brick street with modestly scaled housing on the north side. In the block just north of the proposed site, West 5th is bisected by active, noisy, at-grade railroad tracks at the intersections at Warren/West 5th and adjoining blocks east and west. Train horns at this location are a real issue; permanent residents learn to adjust. Temporary residents, like the young people who would be located at this facility, would likely have more difficulty. Additionally, transportation of JDC inmates in and out of a much larger facility would result in more traffic through adjacent neighborhood streets like West 5th, Myrtle, and Warren.
- *Higher Operating Costs:* While the Davenport City Council understands that the discussion surrounding the size of the proposed new facility is ongoing, it is concerned about the impact to the projected operating budget for a forty to sixty bed facility.

More than 50% of local property tax revenue allocated to the county comes directly from property taxes paid by Davenport residents. The County's own statements project the cost of an expanded facility to be \$1.6M to \$2.5M; the current annual operating cost is \$1M. With already strained resources for both city and county, and as financial stewards for the residents of Davenport, this Council believes expressing concerns about future County budget allocations is within its purview and is prudent.

Statistics across the country and even within the State of Iowa project an overall need for fewer allocated beds in Juvenile Detention Centers. Community-based approaches such as the Youth Assessment Program that work to redirect at risk youth are a growing alternative to costly incarceration. The City Council recommend the Board of Supervisors closely examine these options as it addresses the state's mandate to remove young people from adult facilities.

- *Transparency:* It is unfortunate that the Supervisors chose not to include elected City officials in discussions relating to planning for a facility located within Davenport's redeveloping downtown area. The City and County routinely work together on many projects, and the City Council is disturbed by the lack of communication as plans for the Juvenile Detention Center were being developed as well as public communication throughout the process. The potential impact of the new facility on Davenport neighborhoods and residents is great and this process should have been done on a more collaborative basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Davenport, Iowa that the Council hereby opposes any plan to redevelop the site at West 4th and Warren Streets for a new, larger Juvenile Detention Center, and does not support a location anywhere within or adjacent to the City's most challenged neighborhoods; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests on-going communication and more collaboration in any future projects located within the City of Davenport.

Passed and approved this 8th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Attest:

Mike Matson
Mayor

Brian Krup
Deputy City Clerk