

**From:** [Katie Farden](#)  
**To:** [KCC - Legislative Clerks \(Email Group\)](#)  
**Subject:** Serious concerns with housing clients at SCORE jail  
**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 8:19:30 PM

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Hello,

My name is Katie Farden and I work as a staff attorney at the King County Department of Public Defense. I am writing to share my personal alarm and serious concerns about the County's proposed plan to house individuals accused of crimes at SCORE jail.

Attorney accesses to incarcerated clients has always been frustrating in King County. I have been a public defender for more than five years, and I—and more significantly, my incarcerated clients, have often endured long wait times, cancelled visits, and visits that occur in booths with non-working phones, and no ability to pass legal documents back and forth.

Moving our clients to SCORE would make things worse. Of the serious concerns outlined by my SEIU Union President, Molly Gilbert, is important to take serious pause at the reality that SCORE does not transport clients to court. Important attorney-client conversations happen at Court. This is especially true when attorneys have not gotten the chance to speak with their clients in jail, before court. (Again, in my experience as a public defender, even working nearly round the clock, this is not always possible, especially with such limited ability to visit clients in jail.) Many times, during a hearing, my client has asked me an important question, to which I have privately whispered an answer. This private communication standing shoulder-to-shoulder with my clients would be lost.

Further, it is easier for a judge to look at an incarcerated defendant as less deserving as release when that defendant is appearing on video, and not in the flesh, in the judge's courtroom. It is easier to feel emotionally detached from a person in a Zoom square than it is a person in real life.

Finally, through issues abound the conditions of the King County Jail, the jail is at least walking distance from the King County Courthouse, where many of colleagues are obligated to appear for much of their work day. Public defenders can have hearings that number in the teens any given day. Jail visits are often done at lunch, or after 4pm. Imagine having even just one morning hearing, and one afternoon hearing in Seattle—and trying to get to Des Moines in between. Even assuming you had a car, and were not using public transportation, chances are, you would not make it to SCORE to see your client.

Moving accused persons to SCORE will only further deny accused persons access to justice (by shrinking their right to counsel) in King County.

Respectfully,

Katie Farden

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Katie Farden  
206 799 9662

**From:** [Molly Gilbert](#)  
**To:** [KCC - Legislative Clerks \(Email Group\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Khandelwal, Anita](#); [Hill, Gordon](#); [Rion Peoples](#); [Ed Washington SEIU](#); [Erin Haick](#); [Kimberly La Fronz](#); [Schultz, Rachael \(DPD\)](#)  
**Subject:** DPD/SEIU 925 Letter re: Agenda Item #6 SCORE  
**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 4:26:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [DPD-SEIU 925- Letter to Council- 3-6-2023.pdf](#)

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Please find attached a letter from the King County Department of Public Defense Chapter of SEIU Local 925, in response to Agenda Item #6 for the Council's 3-7-2023 meeting.

Thank you,

-Molly Gilbert  
DPD/SEIU Union President  
360-821-9578

**From:** [Rajan, Naresh](#)  
**To:** [KCC - Legislative Clerks \(Email Group\)](#)  
**Subject:** proposed housing of King County inmates at SCORE  
**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 9:51:54 PM

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I am a public defense attorney practicing in the Seattle Felony Unit at ACA.

There are many problems with this unilateral decision by King County to house our inmates at SCORE

1. There is less oversight at SCORE than at the county jail facilities because it is not a governmental entity
2. It is even farther away and makes it that much more difficult to go and see our clients
3. It will make it harder for family members to visit their loved ones who are incarcerated
4. Guards are paid less and have even less incentive to treat inmates well

We are already depriving criminal defendants of their liberty. When the state takes someone into custody, it bears the responsibility of keeping that person safe, fed and housed. The county has not been fulfilling this obligation particularly well, but this move is not the right thing to do.

Naresh

**Naresh Rajan**

He/him

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**From:** [Sara Mendes](#)  
**To:** [KCC - Legislative Clerks \(Email Group\)](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing Proposed Ordinance 2022-0429  
**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 4:58:06 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing in opposition of proposed ordinance 2022-0429. I work as a public defense attorney for the King County Department of Public Defense. I strongly join in the concerns expressed by my union representative from SEIU 925 in regards to the potential use of SCORE jail to house King County detainees.

Sara Mendes

**From:** [sophia\\_posnock](#)  
**To:** [KCC - Legislative Clerks \(Email Group\)](#)  
**Subject:** Score jail contract  
**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 8:49:13 PM

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Hi,

I am a public defender in king county and I urge you to not rush through the SCORE contract. It is poorly thought through and will be entirely unworkable for my colleagues who are stretched so thin as it is, driving between Kent and Seattle to visit clients while also making court appearances and meeting with clients and investigating and negotiating cases. We need to invest in improving the conditions in our jail, not spend millions to house just 50 people in a notoriously heinous facility. I have heard from so many clients about the conditions at score-- poor health care, overcrowded facilities, filthy conditions, inedible food. SCORE is a private for profit jail-- just the type of facility the Biden administration has vowed to end federally. The oversight for SCORE is even less than the king county jail. We should not be using county dollars for SCORE, and this plan is not thought out.

Sincerely,

Sophia Posnock

**From:** [Brusseau, Zachary](#)  
**To:** [KCC - Legislative Clerks \(Email Group\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Agenda #6 DAJD contract with Score  
**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 5:07:27 PM

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Good evening,

I am writing to each of you to ask to reject DAJD's proposal to contract with SCORE to house up to 50 incarcerated people instead of those individuals being incarcerated at KCCF or RJC jails. This practice would be extremely disruptive to not only those individuals but the attorneys that work with these individuals. While I join in some of the concerns that drove this proposal (understaffing at the jail causing safety concerns for those incarcerated), this measure has not been thought out and will cause massive ripple effects. I am a public defender for King County Department of Public Defense and handle a Felony Caseload in South County designated cases. Due to staffing many of my incarcerated clients have already been difficult to access as they are housed at KCCF instead of RJC. Despite this, I am able to make it work – working increasingly long hours is generally the solution. If suddenly my clients are housed at SCORE waiting pretrial that is an increase of the time I will spend in accessing my clients.

This plan will unfortunately have the effect of creating more delays in the already taxed system. It will threaten my clients access to counsel as guaranteed under the constitution. It will also pass more costs onto DPD as more resources are expended to meet with clients – mileage, hours and time, etc. Finally, I urge the council to consider the unattended consequence of losing more experienced Defense attorneys as the job is continuously made more impossible. Many of my colleagues have left the department in the last 18 months as the job has become increasingly more challenging to balance with any kind of life. Most of these colleagues leaving are my senior and many anecdotally have cited their own mental health in leaving – many taking pay cuts in the process. I am worried not only for my own mental health, my ability to be there for my family, but my colleagues if the council continues to rob Peter (DPD) to pay Paul (DAJD) in this situation.

Even if the Council, once balancing the above concerns with the challenges brought on by jail staffing, finds the plan is ultimately a necessary, I urge the Councilmembers to reject this proposal and create more structure before adopting it in the future. I don't believe that the concerns brought up by SEIU 925 on behalf of DPD employees has been addressed or sorted out. This plan is premature and has not resolved many issues that will bear their head in the future. Will pretrial clients or only clients serving sentences be housed at SCORE (this could help resolve access to client's pretrial)? Will clients be booked in at a SCORE upon arrest or only transferred from the County Facilities (this could affect calculation of credit that defendants receive)? Will the attorneys have access 24/7 to their clients at SCORE? Access to our files that is reliable? Will defendant's be transported to Court? By whom? These are only a sampling of questions that need to be resolved before adopting this proposal.

-Zach

Zachary Brusseau  
He/His  
Staff Attorney – Felony Unit

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