

Terms:

- **Offender:** The one who caused physical and/or psychological harm to the victim.
- **Victim:** The one who experienced physical and/or psychological harm by the offender.

Does the city believe in victimizing victims twice? Well, if a juvenile correctional facility is built in the heart of the city where both the offender and victim live, the city is doing just that.

Milwaukee is a small world in itself where everybody knows everybody. So, in most cases, offenders know their victims and if not, crimes most likely occur in a radius that both the victim and offender share. Therefore, victims must live with a form of PTSD for the rest of their lives. First, constant reminders of the incident simply by living in the same community of which the crime occurred. Second, the inability to avoid viewing a correctional facility that houses their offenders and/or others like them that is built in the same if not neighboring community. Victims' cannot properly heal with so many triggers being activated.

So, while the city is busy looking for ways to convenience the offender and the offender's family, the city is inconveniencing the victim by forcing the victim to view a facility that represents the offender. And while the city is concerned about the offender's accessibility to family and friends, the city is not concerned with the inaccessibility of the victim's livelihood. Since being victimized, the victim has experienced a fear and anxiety few of us can imagine which will only be increased and heightened if a juvenile correctional facility is shared within the same livable space as the victim. Furthermore, while the city feels an obligation to the welfare of the offender, it is lacking an obligation to the welfare of the victim. Every day, victims find ways to deal and cope with the pain offenders have created even when performing day-to-day activities such as shopping, waiting at the bus stop, and other actions within their community.

Victims cannot healthily heal from their traumatic life-altering events when knowing their offenders and others like them are literally only feet away. Concrete walls do not protect or prevent victims from fear.

Victims cannot return to any form of normality when their offenders are or have the potential to be housed in a facility that is placed within the same community their victims live in. Again, prison walls are physical barriers (albeit not 100% effective in preventing escape) that heightens anxiety levels in victims.

In a prior meeting, it was said that the facility is essentially escape-proof. Even Alcatraz was escaped from.

So, let's not forget that the offender **CHOSE** to offend the victim. The victim **DID NOT CHOOSE** to be victimized. And if the city **CHOOSES** to build a correctional facility in the heart of the city, **YOU** will be victimizing the victim again because you are seeking to house similar offenders in the victim's "backyard".

Please do not allow a juvenile correctional facility to encroach on victims' livelihoods or impede on the limited freedoms victims' bravely experience while fighting to find a balance between fear and courage.

In this instance, the facility being "out of sight, out of mind" truly does have healing powers for the victim.

Thank you.

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