May 28, 2013

I am writing to support the conversion of Franklin County Jail back to a full service facility and not a 72 hour holding facility. I was incarcerated on May 21, 2004 for an OUI I committed on October 13, 2003. My sentence was for six months, 8 year license suspension, 3 years of an SR22 and a conditional license until 2023. After 2 weeks of good behavior in jail, I was granted the right of work release at my current place of employment. I paid the jail weekly for the amount of days that I worked, usually 6 days a week. After 3 months incarceration and filling out the appropriate forms, I was granted the electronic monitoring bracelet on August 23, 2003. Again I paid for the daily use of the bracelet and had the privilege to move home and continue working.

The location and long term stay at the jail allowed me to continue to work. I was the breadwinner of my family at that time which included insurance. My husband was a CNA on the waiting list for becoming an RN. My youngest daughter was in High School with my oldest daughter in college. Without my work release job none of this would have happened. With the location of the jail I was able to get rides to and from work. My family could also visit which helped tremendously with my outlook on my situation.

Honestly without the jail location and availability I would have lost my job and insurance, had a possible divorce and my family relations would have suffered. I did wrong and deserved and needed to go to jail. I have paid dearly by losing my license, SR 22, fines and conditional license until 2021. I have had no violations of any kind since 2003.

It has taken me years to forgive myself for what I have done and the damage I have caused. This October 13 I will have been sober for 10 years. I am secretary to my weekly AA meetings and daily try to be a better person and to contribute to society in a positive way.

I am writing because I strongly believe that the Franklin County Jail needs to be full service. We can help citizens that have made mistakes get the help they need to become a positive part of Franklin County. I do not support wasted travel time of the deputies moving those arrested to other jails. A working 24 hour jail would provide jobs that were lost with the closing. My reasons for support may be personal but are written from the heart.

Sincerely,

Lynne Buchheit