

Molly McGuire

From: Kara Schultz <kara@schultzworld.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2026 9:29 AM
To: Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Mercer Island City Council:

Dear Mercer Island City Council,

I am writing to urge you to support amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

My family moved to Mercer Island about six years ago when my children were in sixth and third grade. While my kids were too old to attend the J's preschool, which I know has helped so many families build lifelong friendships, they have still benefited tremendously from the J. They attended camps there that they loved, and now my older son works as a lifeguard at the J during the school year.

That job has been incredibly valuable for him. It has taught him responsibility, communication, attentiveness, and the importance of showing up and serving others. Those are lessons that extend far beyond the pool.

From the moment we moved here, I appreciated having the J as part of our community. It brings people together in a way that very few places can. It provides preschool, camps, fitness facilities, lectures, jobs for teens, programs for older adults, and activities for people of every age, background, ethnicity, and religion. Everyone is welcome, and everyone belongs. It is a true community center that enriches the lives of people across Mercer Island. Communities are stronger when they have places where people can gather, learn, exercise, volunteer, and connect. The J is one of those rare institutions.

The J has been serving Mercer Island as a community center for more than 55 years. Please align the Comprehensive Plan and land use maps with that longstanding reality by changing the property's designation to commercial. Doing so will help ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kara Schultz

