

Molly McGuire

From: Kyle Stratiner <kstratiner@pspipe.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 3:56 PM
To: Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Dear Mercer Island City Council Members,

I am a Bellevue resident writing in support of the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment to redesignate the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) property from single-family residential to commercial.

Although I do not live on Mercer Island, the SJCC has become an important part of my life and is one of the primary reasons I regularly visit the Island. For decades, the J has functioned as far more than a neighborhood facility. It serves as a regional community center that brings together families, individuals, and organizations from across the Eastside.

The current land use designation does not reflect the reality of how the property has been used for more than half a century. The SJCC has long provided recreational, educational, cultural, and community services, and it has become an institution that benefits both Mercer Island residents and thousands of people who come from surrounding communities.

In addition to its social and community value, the SJCC contributes to Mercer Island's local economy. Visitors who come to the J often patronize nearby businesses, restaurants, and retail establishments before or after their visits. The center helps attract people to Mercer Island and strengthens connections between the Island and neighboring communities.

As the SJCC plans for the future, it is important that the City's planning documents acknowledge its longstanding role and provide a framework that supports modernization and reinvestment. Updating the designation to commercial would align the Comprehensive Plan with the property's actual use and help ensure that this valuable community asset remains viable for future generations.

I respectfully encourage the Council to approve the amendment and support the SJCC's continued presence and growth on Mercer Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyle Stratiner
Bellevue, WA

Kyle Stratiner
Executive Vice President



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