

## Molly McGuire

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**From:** Zach Stroum <stroum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2026 2:09 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Please Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Members of the City Council,

I am a third-generation resident of the area who grew up on Mercer Island and currently resides in Bellevue. Growing up attending the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC), I took its presence for granted. Now, as a parent, I recognize how rare and valuable an organization and campus like the SJCC truly is.

It is a diverse, inclusive, and safe space for people of all backgrounds, faiths, orientations, and income levels. Currently, my two daughters attend summer camp there, which provides them with an enriching experience and allows me to work full-time to support my family.

However, the current facility and its outdated zoning restrict the SJCC's ability to maintain and expand these vital community services. While preserving Mercer Island's character through zoning laws is important, the SJCC campus is unique and should not be treated as a single-family home. A modernized, ADA-accessible campus—fully subject to standard land use regulations and public processes—would benefit the entire island by attracting new families and supporting local businesses.

Thoughtful leadership on this matter would benefit both the community and the city, demonstrating that Mercer Island remains an exceptional place to live and visit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Zach Stroum