

Molly McGuire

From: Akili Lawson <AkiliL@sjcc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 8:25 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: The Heart of Our Community: Unwavering Support for the Jewish Community Center

Dear Mercer Island City Officials and Community Leaders,

I am writing to you today to express my absolute, unwavering support for the Jewish Community Center and its reselling and redevelopment efforts.

While I cannot be at the upcoming meeting to speak in person on August 5th, it is crucial to me that my voice is on the record. I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish community, and I want to make it unequivocally clear how vital this institution is to the very soul of Mercer Island.

Through my daily work in early childhood education, I see firsthand exactly what it takes to build a strong foundation for the next generation. It takes safe spaces, shared resources, and a true sense of belonging.

The JCC isn't just a building; it is a lifeline. It is where our families grow in parallel, where our children learn, and where the fabric of our city is woven together. When we support spaces like this, we are investing in the health and future of everyone who lives here.

diminishing this center is not an option. We need to fiercely protect and advocate for the spaces that keep our community tight-knit and vibrant.

I strongly urge the council and community leaders to clear the path for the JCC's plans. Let's ensure this incredible community cornerstone continues to thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and for prioritizing the people of Mercer Island.
Sincerely,

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