

Molly McGuire

From: E Jimenez <sra.ejimenez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the SJCC Property

Dear Members of the Mercer Island Planning Commission and City Council,

I am writing to respectfully urge your support for amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC (The J) property from single-family to commercial.

I have lived on Mercer Island for many years and have witnessed firsthand the tremendous value that The J brings to our community. For more than 55 years, it has never functioned as a single-family property. Instead, it has served as a true community center that welcomes everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs or background. Over the years, I have had the privilege of participating in many activities at The J.

I have attended educational programs, community events, and fitness classes, and I have seen children, families, adults, and seniors all benefit from what this special place offers. The fitness and wellness programs are especially important for many older adults, providing opportunities to stay active, healthy, and socially connected. The J truly offers something meaningful for every generation.

One of the things I admire most is that The J creates a welcoming environment where people feel they belong. It brings neighbors together, builds friendships, supports families, and strengthens the sense of community that makes Mercer Island such a wonderful place to live. Countless children have grown up participating in programs there, and many adults continue to benefit from its services throughout their lives.

Like many community facilities that have served for decades, the building now needs significant care and investment. I believe that updating the property's designation to reflect its longstanding community use will help ensure that these improvements can happen and allow The J to continue serving Mercer Island for generations to come. This change would not only recognize the reality of how the property has been used for decades, but it would also enable it to better meet the needs of our growing and evolving community while continuing to be a good neighbor.

Please approve this amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and align the land use designation with the property's historic and ongoing role as a community center. Doing so will help ensure that The J continues to enrich the lives of Mercer Island residents for the next 55 years and beyond.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Jimenez
9208 SE 33rd St
Mercer Island. WA 98040

