

Molly McGuire

From: Deb Estrada
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:56 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Please modify zoning requirements to allow the JCC to remodel.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Selby <jselby@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:28 AM
To: Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Please modify zoning requirements to allow the JCC to remodel.

City Council Members,

The JCC is an absolute asset to our community on so many levels.

I am not Jewish, but when we first moved to Mercer Island 17 years ago, I looked at every local preschool option for my 3 year old. It turned out that the JCC and their program was the perfect fit for him. It was an incredibly caring and kind environment and a great way to start our time living on Mercer Island.

Since those years we have returned many times to attend lectures, watch our son perform in plays, have our sons participate in Dinky Dunkers basketball and summer camps, and to attend important community fundraising auctions.

17 years later I am still going to the JCC weekly to workout, as they have one of the best gyms on the Island.

What I love so much about the JCC is that they truly welcome every community member regardless of religion.

From an equity perspective, there really is no better community space on Mercer Island. Mercer Island has three private swim, fitness, and social clubs each of which charge significant entry fees to join that cost many thousands of dollars. This exclusive cost structure is cost prohibitive for so many families.

The JCC has monthly memberships with no initiation fees and is truly affordable and more equitable for all community members. Similar to the three private clubs, this also includes a pool, an important offering for children who live on an island to learn how to swim. They also offer community childcare, fitness, camps, recreation activities, lectures, programs, event space, and just general community building.

I urge you all to vote in favor of any necessary zoning modifications so that the JCC can modernize and continue to offer great programming at an affordable price without expensive initiation fees to our entire community.

Thank you,

Jennifer Selby
8320 SE 61st Street

Sent from my iPhone