

Molly McGuire

From: jill friedman <jillfriedman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: SJCC plans

Hi,

My name is Jill Friedman. My husband Chuck and I have lived on Mercer island since 2013, just around the corner from the JCC on Mercerwood Dr. However, our connection to the SJCC began in 1997 when we moved to the Seattle area. This organization has been an important part of our lives and the lives of our children for decades.

I write with a unique perspective of being a longtime member of the SJCC, member of Herzl Ner Tamid synagogue and past parent+ past board chair of the Jewish Day School. My interest in this project before you also extends to my interest as a close neighbor. On all accounts, the SJCC project is an essential part of the Jewish community and will be an enhancement to the whole community on Mercer Island.

I urge you to support amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community — as a community center — for over 55 years. My hope is it will be here for another 55. I am not a land-use expert, but I know for certain the J has always served the community as a gathering space, an activity center, a school, and as a place for reflection and community — it has never been in single family use. As such, the city should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property. More importantly, it will allow the J to continue to serve the Mercer Island community without hindrance.

This building project will provide a much-needed refresh of a well-loved and well-used property and provide an opportunity to configure the infrastructure to adapt to the needs of the community and the surrounding area.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sent from my iPhone