

Molly McGuire

From: Karen Roberts <kroberts@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:01 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: SJCC's Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Rezone request

My name is Karen Roberts, and I live at 7007 SE Maker Street in Mercer Island. I have owned my home since 2004, and my sons went to school in Mercer Island. I retired in 2023 and have chosen to remain in Mercer Island. Our community here in Mercer Island offers so much that I appreciate, but truly, one of the main reasons I remain here is the easy accessibility to the **Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC)**, located at 3801 East Mercer Way, Mercer Island. This institution is such a gift to all of us here in the area!

While the SJCC is an entity founded to foster and promote Jewish connections in the community, it is so much more than that. It is a supportive, inclusive, and welcoming gathering place for ALL people regardless of religion, race, age, and domicile. It is a gym facility, a school, an activity center, and gathering space for our Mercer Island community. And it is where I personally spend countless hours every week exercising and finding connections with other people. Were it not for the SJCC, I would be lonely and disconnected from a community that supports and cares for me in countless ways. I feel lucky to belong to the SJCC, and I take advantage of its many offerings throughout the year. It is an extremely important resource to me and so many others, serving needs that are not met elsewhere in the Mercer Island community or the greater King County region.

I am writing to you to request your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. I understand that the current zoning of the property is that of single-family usage, and this must be changed to properly reflect the actual usage AND allow the SJCC to update its facilities to provide even more benefits and support to our community.

I strongly urge the Planning Commission to support the revision of the Mercer Island comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding actual use of this property, removing any barriers due to zoning designation. This will allow the SJCC to continue to serve the Mercer Island community without the obstacles its current zoning designation represents.

Thank you.

Regards,

Karen Roberts

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