

Molly McGuire

From: Deb Estrada
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 11:51 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Public hearing for CPA25-002

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

From: Michael Bundesmann <mikebundesmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 9:28 PM
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@mercerisland.gov>
Subject: Public hearing for CPA25-002

I am a Mercer Island resident and live near the JCC.

For starters, having a hearing in the middle of summer while community families are away and traveling is a poor decision designed to push something through without community input. This is underhanded and undermines the democratic process our Island should run on. It clearly indicates that someone does not want to hear from community families that are impacted by these decisions. The hearing and decision should be postponed to a time when community engagement is possible.

Second, the proposed rezone is strongly opposed by the community residents. This is a residential Island and zone. The JCC already creates substantial problems with traffic in and out of the traffic in this portion of the Island. It creates back-ups that cause drivers to be impatient, frustrated and dangerous. We have a school bus stop for this neighborhood right in front of the JCC on EMW, and the number of times I and other parents accompanying our children to the bus stop have seen the traffic reckless driving endanger us and our children is unacceptable. This is not only those driving in and out of the JCC, but also those just trying to get onto and off the Island through East Mercer Way. I would like our family and local pedestrians to stay safe. Rezoning this area will only make it worse. Further, we haven't even realized the added challenges that the new school at Herzl will bring before passing through this change before residents feel the impact of the already poorly planned schools at Herzl.

The continued city caving to the interests of centralized lobbies of the JCC and Herzl continue to send the message to everyday residents of the Island that their voices and experiences do not count. We have children in our community with asthma and respiratory conditions. The city has already allowed Herzl to remove large swaths of dense tree coverage between our neighborhood and the highway. In conjunction with the increased traffic from the school and decreased green band between the highway and local neighborhoods worsen air-quality and increase respiratory illness. (I can provide extensive citations on this if desired, I am a pulmonary physician). The city essentially preaches green ethics and then turns the other direction when it is inconvenient.

Thus, the combined message from the city if the rezoning is passed is summarized by: 1. The city doesn't care about the changes to quality of life and traffic impact when coming and going from our homes. 2. The city doesn't care that the increased traffic that will place our children at risk when coming and going from home to school. 3. The city doesn't care that these institutions tear down trees, increase traffic, and expose us to further biomass fuel emissions worsening respiratory health with missed school, work, and productivity. The city supposed should want it to be a healthy and safe place to live. 4. The city doesn't care that these decisions will occur when the community voice is missing in the midst of summer travel season. Because frankly, its hard to admit to your own residents that you don't care about their health, safety, and quality of life. So better to it while they are all out of town.

The bottom line is that allowing these changes tells the community that the city does not care about its residents.

The JCC is a lovely resource and presence on the island. My children went there for aftercare, they have had their swim lessons there. It is part of their community. I'd like to keep it that way. I'd happily support improvements and upgrades to the JCC. But it has to be in a way that is pro-Mercer Island.

Sincerely,

Michael Bundesmann
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