

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 8:54 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Public Hearing for CPA25-002
Attachments: daycare_access.png

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC

City Clerk

City of Mercer Island

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From: Michael Searing <searing.michael@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 9:05 PM
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@mercerisland.gov>
Cc: Nicole Searing <nrsearing@gmail.com>
Subject: Public Hearing for CPA25-002

Good morning,

Seeing all the commentary about the zoning change to the JCC made me want to write in with a safety request. Our two toddlers attend the daycare at the JCC, and we prefer, when possible, to walk to daycare.

From our house on the north end of the island, the only way on foot to the JCC is down Gallagher Hill (not safe) or down 40th, accessing it from the neighborhoods directly to the south. The problem is that from these neighborhoods, you have to walk briefly on East Mercer Way. There is no sidewalk along this portion, and the shoulder is almost always blocked by parked cars, forcing us onto the street. (And even the shoulder is not that safe, being along a blind curve.)

We believe that there is a safer way. 97th Ave used to provide safe access to the J, the parking lot behind the pediatrician's office, and the other commercial buildings along 36th St. This access was blocked by the installation of a fence in the last year. 36th St has a sidewalk providing safe access to all these institutions, and there seem to be a couple of easy locations where a short pedestrian trail could be added to restore access.

About 25% of the island would be within a safe 30-minute walk of this area if access were restored between 40th St and 36th St. There is city property, namely the City Shop behind City Hall, providing a connection (the blue line in the attached). There is also JCC property which could provide access (the

pink line in the attached). Both of these options would only involve building a trail 50 yards long through relatively flat forest. This exact route behind the City Shop was already mostly cleared of brush in the last year.

Our family would be grateful for anything the city can do to facilitate safe pedestrian access to this community and childcare center. This will be all the more important as more cars access the J, making travel to the J by alternate transportation methods more beneficial to the entire community.

Thank you,
Michael, Nicole, Finn, and Nash Searing



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Daycares

City Hall

Pediatrician

FASPS

City Shop

JCC/daycare

Fence

City
Property

J Property