

Molly McGuire

From: Naomi Alhadeff <mrs.alhadeff@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 8:45 PM
To: Planning Commission; Deb Estrada; Alison Van Gorp; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

Good evening. My name is Naomi Alhadeff, and I have been coming to the Stroum Jewish Community Center since I was a little girl, beginning in preschool.

Some of my happiest childhood memories were made there and where I could celebrate Jewish holidays, learning to swim, attending summer camp, and participating in teen programs. Today, it's incredibly meaningful that my own children now attend preschool, camp, and community programs, creating memories of their own.

The JCC is so much more than a building. It is a place where people of all backgrounds come together to learn, build friendships, celebrate, exercise, volunteer, and support one another. It strengthens not only the Jewish community but the entire Mercer Island community and surrounding areas.

Especially in today's climate, Jewish families need places where our children can safely and proudly embrace their identity. The JCC provides that sense of belonging, acceptance, and security while welcoming everyone who walks through its doors.

Approving this zoning change is an investment in community, allowing the building to update to code, ADA accessibility and other needed improvements. A vibrant community center that serves thousands of children, families, seniors, and neighbors every year provides far greater and longer-lasting value than a single commercial or residential development on this site. The benefits extend well beyond the Jewish community, it will continue to strengthen the social fabric of Mercer Island for generations to come.

I hope you'll support this request and path to updating the facilities to help ensure that future generations have the same opportunity to learn, grow, celebrate, and build community that I have been fortunate to experience throughout my life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Naomi

Sent from my iPhone