

Molly McGuire

From: Paula Libes <paula.libes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:45 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: The Stroum JCC is essential for Mercer Island residents and nearby communities

Hello. My name is Paula L. Chester. I've lived on "the island" since 1988. I've finally begun to take full advantage of the amazing resource that is the Stroum Jewish Community Center. When I go there to swim, to take classes and to view movies, I am amazed at the huge demographic served by this 50 year old facility. Truth: Nearly all of the original Jewish residents of the city have passed on or are in assisted living facilities. They have been replaced by young families of all religions and nationalities who see the same advantage of living in our beautiful community. We continue to have the best schools, amazing parks and walking trails, and now a more vibrant and thriving downtown. The Stroum JCC is a home away from home for Mercer Island parents and their children. It offers great fitness facilities for adults, teens and seniors. There is always lots going on, and there could be even more if the aging facility were to undergo a radical updating.

It's not only Mercer Islanders who utilize the JCC. We are a stone's throw from Bellevue, and other communities who take advantage of the JCC's offerings. Please keep a modernized Stroum JCC part of any long term plan as the City of Mercer Island looks to the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paula Libes Chester