

Molly McGuire

From: Phoebe O'Rourke <phoebeporourke@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 4:51 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Council; Deb Estrada; Molly McGuire
Subject: Public Comment RE CPA25-002, RZN25-002, SEP25-021

Hello,

My name is Phoebe O'Rourke, and I am a lifelong resident of Mercer Island.

I grew up here, on 97th Ave. I learned to ride my bike here, went on long family walks up and down these streets, picked blackberries that grow along 40th Street in the summertime. I have been lucky enough to witness families of deer emerge from the greenbelt on 40th year after year. My neighborhood has seen block parties, 4th of July celebrations in the cul-de-sac, joyful trick-or-treating, and quiet mornings, afternoons, and evenings. This neighborhood has seen my childhood and the formative years of so many other children.

I am 20, now, and I see my neighborhood changing before my eyes. There seems to be more traffic on the road every year since I first learned to drive here. I see less wildlife in the summers. Now, the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment and rezone promises significant change in my neighborhood, change that I see to be detrimental.

As I read through the [staff report for project CPA25-002](#), which outlines the alignment of this proposed amendment to the CCP, I noted Goal 7.1. This goal states that projects preserve the neighborhood character in residential zones in terms of form, bulk, scale, and intensity of the built environment. The applicant's response was "the SJCC requires a gym and a pool, the larger scale of which is inconsistent with the desired scale identified in a single family zoning designation. Therefore, the designation should be changed, so that the SJCC can remain in this location."

The lack of concern for the character of my neighborhood as it is deeply concerns me. The character is one that is residential and filled with wildlife and green space, not commercial activity, intensity, and pollution from increased traffic. I love my neighborhood, and I want it to be a place that is as formative for future generations as it has been for me and my family. I want other kids, maybe one day my kids, to learn to ride their bikes on these streets, to pick blackberries, to have a peaceful place to grow up.

I support the mission and the wonderful service to the community that the J has provided. I hope the work continues for generations to come, to support as many Islanders as possible, in land already zoned for such a use. As such, I request that you, the Mercer Island Planning Commission and City Council, deny this amendment and future rezone.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this matter, and please confirm receipt of my comment.

Phoebe O'Rourke