

From: Sandy Samuel <sandysamuel@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:55 AM
To: Planning Commission
Cc: Amyl@sjcc.org
Subject: SJCC zoning proposal

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Dear Mercer Island Planning Commission,

Please recommend that the Mercer Island City Council places the Stroum Jewish Community Center's request to rezone their large residential land parcels to Commercial Office on the docket, with action taken in 2024.

For over 54 years, the SJCC has served Mercer Island residents with programs for all ages and all are welcome. However, this building is old, is not ADA compliant, needs a working HVAC system and it features a swimming pool that is long past its usefulness.

I have lived on Mercer Island since 1984. During this period I have used the JCC

for preschool, swim lessons for my kids, sports leagues, cultural events, camp, physical fitness and for 15 years water aerobics which has basically satisfied critical health issues, allowed me to develop relationships with the greater Mercer Island community, and has satisfied numerous social needs.

It's time for a substantive, accessible, and sustainable redevelopment, yet the current residential zoning makes this nearly impossible. A rezone to Commercial Office property would significantly facilitate this remodel while honoring the neighborhood integrity and specific interests of the proximate neighbors.

For over 54 years, the SJCC has operated as a vital community asset. It would be a loss for the broad Mercer Island community to not support the modernization of this facility.

Further, this request affects the SJCC ONLY, and will not have any impact on any other facility or institution on the Island.

The time to support the future of the Stroum Jewish Community Center on Mercer Island is now.

Thank you for your support.

Sandy M. Samuel
9711 Mercerwood Drive ,
Mercer Island
45 years on Mercer Island.