

## Herzl development comments

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To: Molly McGuire <molly.mcguire@mercerisland.gov>

I apologize for the lateness and informality of this email. My name is Cartund Monson and I live at 3808 East Mercer.

Other than the clear effect that this development will put a school in my front yard, and turn my neighborhood into a construction zone for years, there are a number of valid reasons the City should suspend the pursuit of growth that will diminish the quality of our community.

I have lived here since 1975. The JCC/Herzl is a beautiful and historic part of this Island's Culture, a defining part of it. My kids grew up using the JCC. The Herzl temple is a beautiful building. I know churches cannot be designated, but it would be a shame to lose the properly community sized facility as it is. You will find most Islanders of my mind. We hate it when memorable things are lost for another cul-de-sac of McMansions.

More practically, our infrastructure is not up to it, and I don't only mean the traffic. We all know the water/waste system is already beyond its capacity. If we start zoning the Island up it will have to be replaced earlier, far more expensively, and the City will expect that much more money from a vexed citizenry unlikely to vote for it. Plus, it won't just be the JCC/Herzl, it will be 'workforce housing' to take advantage of the train corridor—as the County has dictated. This project is a toe-hold for upzoning and we all know it and have been fighting it for years.

This is growth that will drastically lower the relative property value of every resident. It is the security of the Island that makes it exclusive, and we will already be dealing with a no security train station one stop from the most crime-ridden area in poor, beleaguered Seattle. My 82 year old Mother assures me Mercer Island was fighting against train stops on the Island since the late 1970s. Look at the bus mess the County has crammed in here. Stop letting the on-their-way-out progressive idiots running the County push the Island around. I do mean Idiots: building Pentagon sized homeless shelters next to community colleges and Park and Rides. That is criminal abuse and malfeasance towards the County's own constituents. You do NOT import crime-generating projects without generating considerable animosity and resistance.

Speaking of the traffic, it's no joke that it is a problem that will become vastly worse when the traffic flow is to both sides of EMW morning and evening. It is fine to fill the parking lots for meetings and large events now and then, but those are not at rush hour. Who is going to mitigate this, and will we have to pay for it?

There are plenty of practical, economical reasons NOT to approve projects like this. The important one is this: The Island has had its fill of progressive meddling in organic development which has nearly ruined Seattle. The whole region has. The damage to our region It is the number one issue in local media. Not just the homeless/drug debacle, but the densification being pushed. But there is no need for it, the idea is outdated. You densify due to massive population growth, maybe that made sense twenty years ago, but not now. The whole United States is below replacement and falling. The last thing needed is to cram people in by ruining the wonderful neighborhoods in the eastside around the lake, and of course, Mercer Island. Islanders are smart people, we know the pointlessness of the above, and we will not reward people going along with Chinese theories of urban development. If the City were to align more with what the current residents want for development which is \$NONE, the votes on future bonds might be easier.

I don't mean to offend you if you are progressive, like I said, there was a time when densification made sense, which has passed. But the reason has now become Equity and other ideological justifications, and that's not only wrong but passe. The political pendulum is swinging the other way, be smart enough to recognize it and take advantage.

Here's the punch line: When the School District is considering bussing students in, desperate for money with falling attendance, what possible reason is there to build an additional complex of private schools? We already know the FAS is 80% off-island students now, but if the capacity is built, the Schools that will lose students will be public ones; as is already happening.

Sois sage mes amis,  
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