

Molly McGuire

From: Winky Lai <winkylai@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 7:07 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: Re: RE Herzel Hearing 7/9/2025 9:30AM

Good morning Molly - since I was only able to stay for the call from 9:30am to just before 10:00am and didn't want to miss the comment period. I would like to submit this email as my comment on record for today's hearing - please excuse my ignorance in these processes, I'm trying my best as a non city planner to navigate the system and any pointer would be appreciated.

Here are my comments:

1. I wanted to made aware that I have submitted a written comment to the city dated 5/28/2024 - I found that on the city website for the project <https://permitbulletin.mercerisland.gov/public/CUP24-001%20and%20SEP24-003/Public%20Comments/Winky%20Lai%2005282024/cup24-001%20winky%20lai%20comment.pdf>
2. this SEPA/CUP/ Process is very confusing - as a non land use / city planning professional – this uncertainty of some large commercial structure looming next door has caused a lot of stress to our family. And not knowing what the neighborhood will look like in 2-5 year is not a good feeling. I would like to ask for a boiled down one page road map of how the process of approval works so we (as neighbors) can follow along and participate in the decision making process. To give you an example - I after receiving the letter from the city and try to access the file on the city website stated in the letter, I had to navigate to several different sections of the website since there was first the CUP24-001 and SEP24-003 folder, then the DSR25-009, then there is the APL25-003. It's a very confusing process since they're not linked (at least I haven't figured out how to find the links without referring to the paper copy letter I received in the mail)
3. Agree the city's comment on turn lane is encouraging but as a non-planning professional – I cannot visualize what that means and how is it possible at the existing space – can we get more detail how this is being accomplished?
4. As a neighbor who has been in the neighborhood for 12 years, Thanks for allowing us as neighbor to voice our concern but I'm lost in the process because once again as a neighbor who is not a city planning professional, I would love to give constructive feedback to help maintain the integrity and safety of our neighborhood in a proactive manner instead of waiting for accidents to happen then come up with bandage solutions. As someone who walks & drive this stretch of road daily multiple times and have a child who rides a bike in this area – I cannot tell you how many close calls that I've witnessed or have personally experienced of the dangerous maneuvers I've experience whenever there is the traffic congestion at the intersection at the current capacity of these facilities. Of course – as I've said, these are close calls so there are no data points on police reports or city records of these numerous incidents but as someone who live this daily – I feel that mitigation of the risk is imminent before something really bad happens. I cannot imagine without a significant detail study, planning & execution of a mitigation plan, how we're going to handle the increased traffic & parking to not cause significant safety risk to not just the 9 households that are immediately adjacent to the facility but the hundreds /thousands of trips made by 1/3 of the islanders who utilizes 1 of 3 egress point to the I-90 corridor.

Thanks & have a wonderful day
Winky Lai & Suresh Krishnamoorthy
3716 E Mercer Way 206-265-0697

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 3:51 PM Molly McGuire <molly.mcguire@mercerisland.gov> wrote:

Hi Winky,

A notice of application for the project was provided consistent with the methods in [MICC 19.15.090](#).

To provide in-person comments during the public hearing, please follow the instructions listed on the [Notice of Public Hearing](#) for joining the meeting. You can provide your information to our Deputy City Clerk, Deb Estrada (Cc'd in this reply) to register to provide comments. The Hearing Examiner will also ask if there are any members of the public who wish to comment and at that time, you may raise your hand in the Zoom platform. The hearing examiner will recognize you so that you can provide your comments.

The next step after the public hearing is the Design Standard Review portion of the project, which will require another public hearing. This public hearing has not been scheduled yet, but parties of record will, again, be provided with a Notice of Public Hearing consistent with the methods in MICC 19.15.090.

Sincerely,

Molly McGuire

Senior Planner
City of Mercer Island – Community Planning & Development
206-275-7712 | www.mercerisland.gov

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From: Winky Lai <winkylai@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Molly McGuire <molly.mcguire@mercerisland.gov>
Subject: RE Herzel Hearing 7/9/2025 9:30AM

Hi Molly,

Hope your summer is going well so far. I am writing again regarding the development at the Herzl-Ner Tamid (APL25-003 - The Applicant appeals the mitigation measures that the City required as part of a SEPA Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance issued under SEP24-003).

I have already submitted my letter of objection to the project due to its dangerous impact on the neighborhood without appropriate & detail study and mitigation plan of the traffic flow impact on the Northeast corner of Mercer Island as a whole.

I wanted to find out why there were no public meetings on this important issue that will impact traffic flow to the entire east side of the island - the sole egress to the I-90 corridor - in my knowledge, only a handful of home owners adjacent to the proposed project site (at most 9 houses down the private road where my residence is located) received a letter to notify them of the project.

I would like to voice my concern at the zoom meeting tomorrow - can you let me know what I need to do in order to put my comment/concern on record. Also, can you let me know what is the next step after the scheduled public hearing via zoom on July 9, 2025 9:30am?

Regards,

Winky Lai & Suresh Krishnamoorthy

3716 E Mercer Way