Molly McGuire

From: Hendelman, Aaron <ahendelman@wsgr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 10:32 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Cc: christina Hendelman
Subject: Support for JCC Comprehensive Plan Amendment

To the Mercer Island Planning Commission and City Council,

We are writing in strong support of the Comprehensive Plan amendment that would allow the Stroum Jewish Community Center to move forward with its long-needed remodel.

We are Christina and Aaron Hendelman. We moved to Mercer Island in 2005 with three small children, not knowing a single person on the island. From nearly the first week, the J became our home away from home. Our kids went through J preschool, took their swim lessons there, and spent their summers at J camp. Looking back, the JCC helped raise our children as much as any other institution.

The J's role in this community goes far beyond our own family. It's likely the largest employer of Mercer Island teenagers outside the school district itself, hiring them for camps, the front desk, and the gym. Our (non-Jewish) neighbor spent last summer working as a J counselor. For Mercer Island's teenagers and college students home for the summer, the J is often their first job and their default workout spot.

Twenty years later, we're still there every week. We work out at the gym, take fitness classes, and catch up with friends. We come for the speaker series and film nights. We are still making new friends there today, and many of the people we met through preschool drop-off two decades ago remain our closest friends now. Our amazing friendships with Noreen (of Irish descent) and Lisa (who is Australian) started and blossomed at the J and have nothing to do with religion. That's the point: the J is no more "Jewish" than Providence Hospital is Christian. It's a community institution that happens to have Jewish roots, and it draws in and serves everyone on this island, regardless of background.

That's exactly why this amendment matters. The current building is more than 60 years old. Anyone who has spent time there has seen the maintenance issues and the lack of space for the classes and programs that serve so many of us. A remodel means the J can keep doing what it's done for our family and thousands of others for the next 60 years and can serve even more of our neighbors in the process.

We urge the Planning Commission and City Council to approve this amendment. Mercer Island is a better, more connected place because of the J, and this vote will decide whether it can keep serving us the way it always has. We're asking nothing more and the community deserves nothing less.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,
Christina and Aaron Hendelman
Mercer Island, WA

WILSON SONSINI

Aaron Hendelman | Partner
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5100 | Seattle, WA 98104-7036 | direct: 206.883.2514
ahendelman@wsgr.com

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Molly McGuire

From: Aaron Rosenstein <aaronrosenstein65@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 8:10 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial

Dear Planning Commission,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

Our family has lived here on Mercer Island all of our lives. Our children attended SJCC pre-school, we have regularly used the J for fitness/racketball/softball/basketball, attended many lectures/movies/events and have family members who have worked for the J for decades.

The J is an essential part of our family, our community and our lives.

Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 year.

Thanks,

Aaron

Aaron Rosenstein
206-618-7261

Molly McGuire

From: Akili Lawson <AkiliL@sjcc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 8:25 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: The Heart of Our Community: Unwavering Support for the Jewish Community Center

Dear Mercer Island City Officials and Community Leaders,

I am writing to you today to express my absolute, unwavering support for the Jewish Community Center and its reselling and redevelopment efforts.

While I cannot be at the upcoming meeting to speak in person on August 5th, it is crucial to me that my voice is on the record. I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish community, and I want to make it unequivocally clear how vital this institution is to the very soul of Mercer Island.

Through my daily work in early childhood education, I see firsthand exactly what it takes to build a strong foundation for the next generation. It takes safe spaces, shared resources, and a true sense of belonging.

The JCC isn't just a building; it is a lifeline. It is where our families grow in parallel, where our children learn, and where the fabric of our city is woven together. When we support spaces like this, we are investing in the health and future of everyone who lives here.

diminishing this center is not an option. We need to fiercely protect and advocate for the spaces that keep our community tight-knit and vibrant.

I strongly urge the council and community leaders to clear the path for the JCC's plans. Let's ensure this incredible community cornerstone continues to thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and for prioritizing the people of Mercer Island.
Sincerely,

Akili Lawson
206-578-9797
Akili.j.lawson@gmail.com

Molly McGuire

From: Alan Rothblatt <amagiccarpet@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 12:24 PM
To: Planning Commission
Cc: Deb Estrada
Subject: SJCC

To Planning Commission,

I am writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. I have been a member of the SJCC which provides affordable and comprehensive facilities for residents of the region of all ages and ethnicities. The J has been serving its community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you.

Alan Rothblatt

Molly McGuire

From: Alan Tesler <atesler3@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 3:42 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Please Support the Proposed Zoning Change for the Stroum Jewish Community Center

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

As Mercer Island residents for over 40 years, and members and frequent users of the Stroum Jewish Community Center for the entire time our family has lived here, we're writing today to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

We joined the JCC right after moving to Seattle in 1984, and that connection eased our move to the new community. The services we've received and the friends we've made through the JCC have been a vital enriching part of our lives. We use the gym almost daily, and we enjoy the cultural arts programs that are offered as well.

The JCC has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Many of the users, including the people we see every day in the gym, are not Jewish, but the JCC is welcoming to everyone.

The JCC is clearly not a single family residence. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the JCC can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for at least another 55 years.

Thank you!

-Michele and Alan Tesler
2205 82nd Avenue SE

Molly McGuire

From: Alan Waldbaum <alanwaldbaum@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 2:18 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Cc: Kim Waldbaum
Subject: Please Support Rezoning the SJCC Property to Reflect its Longstanding Community Role

Dear Mercer Island Planning Commission and City Council Members,

We are writing to urge your support for amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) property from single-family residential to commercial.

The SJCC has been serving the Mercer Island community as a community center for more than 55 years. We respectfully ask that the Comprehensive Plan and land use maps be updated to reflect that longstanding reality and to ensure that the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Our family's connection to the SJCC spans generations and has shaped some of the most important experiences of our lives. We have grandparents who were members, both sets of our parents were members, and now our family of five are members.

Between the two of us, we attended preschool at "the J" (as we affectionately refer to the SJCC), took swim lessons and gymnastics classes there as children, participated in youth groups as teenagers, and worked out at the J through our young adulthood.

As adults, we met each other while working out at the J's fitness center and began dating soon afterward. We played softball and basketball through the J's sports leagues, and after we married, we settled in Bellevue, where we have lived for the past 25 years.

Even though we do not live on Mercer Island, the SJCC continues to draw us to the Island on an almost daily basis. We regularly use the fitness center, pool, and gym. Our children attended preschool there, took swimming lessons there, participated in youth groups and sports programs there, and now use the fitness facilities themselves.

Our story also highlights something important about the SJCC's impact beyond its campus. Families like ours who live off-island make frequent trips to Mercer Island because of the J. Before and after our visits, we regularly shop at Mercer Island grocery stores and pharmacies, buy books, purchase gas, dine at local restaurants and cafés, and use local businesses and services. The SJCC is an economic driver that brings thousands of visitors and customers to Mercer Island businesses every year.

The reality is that the J has operated as a community center for decades and has become an integral part of the social, recreational, educational, and economic fabric of Mercer Island. The facility is also in need of significant modernization and reinvestment to continue serving current and future generations. If the zoning designation is not updated to support the J's long-term viability and redevelopment needs, Mercer Island risks losing not only a cherished community institution, but also the economic activity generated by families like ours who choose Mercer Island because of the SJCC.

We strongly encourage you to approve the Comprehensive Plan amendment and redesignate the SJCC property from single-family residential to commercial. Doing so will align the City's planning documents with the property's actual use, recognize the J's more than half-century of service to the community, and help ensure that this invaluable institution can continue to benefit Mercer Island residents and visitors alike for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan Waldbaum
Kim Muscatel Waldbaum

Molly McGuire

From: Alison Van Gorp
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 4:19 PM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Subject. Success

From: Albert Angel <aangels@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>
Subject: Subject. Success

Please allow the sjcc to grow and thrive and zone as they request
I grew up at the J. My 4 children grew up at the J
And now my grandchildren are at the J
Invaluable resource for children adults and now as I am experiencing seniors
Thank you Albert

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

Molly McGuire

From: Deb Estrada
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:44 AM
To: Molly McGuire; Andrea Larson
Subject: FW: Support the rezone of the JCC

From: Alexis Odell <alexis.odell@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 7:48 AM
To: Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Support the rezone of the JCC

As a long time member of the JCC, I urge you to help our Mercer Island community thrive by allowing the rezoning of the JCC property.

My family has used the JCC daily for the last 17 years. My kids were in preschool there. We work out there and now my eldest son is a camp counselor for their summer camp. This institution is an important third place for many Mercer Island residents. We would like to see it evolve to meet the needs of current and future Mercer Island residents. We believe the rezone will allow this evolution to occur responsibly. And it is critical to support necessary building and facility updates and remodeling. Please do your part to help ensure the safety of our JCC community.

Alexis

Molly McGuire

From: Alexis Rubenstein <alexis@foundationgroupre.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 10:56 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

The other day I went to the JCC for the first time in a few years to enjoy my new hobby, Mah Jonng. It was not a particularly warm day but the room we were in was stuffy, hot, and humid. It struck me as the building has not changed since I went to preschool there 40+ years ago.

The SJCC and its facilities serve a wide range of Mercer Island residents and provide tremendous educational, recreational, cultural, and community services. To ensure that the organization can continue meeting the needs of our community, I strongly urge you to support amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family residential to commercial.

Please align the Comprehensive Plan and land-use maps with the property's longstanding use and current reality. Doing so will help ensure that the J can continue to improve its facilities, serve our community, and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alexis Rubenstein

Molly McGuire

From: Aliyah Vinikoor <aliyahjv@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 12:14 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I was born and raised in Seattle and regularly attended JCC programs and events. Until the early 2000s there was an outpost in NE Seattle - since then my family (and many others!) happily trek to Mercer Island to attend Jewish programs, youth events, swim lessons and more at the SJCC.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,
Aliyah Vinikoor

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Lott <andrea.lott@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 7:07 AM
To: Alison Van Gorp
Cc: Council; Planning Commission; Deb Estrada
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

[State why you value the J, and your relationship with the J. For example: I've been coming to the J since…; My kids have attended the J….; My family has used the J….]

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: Andy Harris <Andrewt@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:58 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: JCC zoning

We are writing to strongly urge the planning commission to grant the zoning variance requested by the Stroum Jewish Community Center to make critically needed improvements to existing structures and for a much-needed expansion. JCC programing is a magnet for a significant number of Mercer Island residents of all denominations, as everyone is welcome at the JCC.

The JCC Preschool, After School Day Care and Summer Day-Camp programs are of the best in the region and are almost always full. So many Mercer Island parents rely on the JCC as a safe, nurturing environment for their children to be cared for, taught and encouraged, while they are at work, taking care of elderly parents or engaged in other activities.

The combination of the JCC gymnasium, workout rooms, sports courts, pool and locker rooms are, by far, the best combined facilities on the Island, and available to all Islanders. The senior fitness and social programming is also unmatched on the Island. The auditorium hosts performing arts programming as well as the Seattle Jewish Film Festival. However, this, and so much more, is all being accomplished in an old facility that is badly in need of upgrading or, in some cases, replacing with newer, larger and more energy-efficient facilities.

With its growing popularity, the JCC needs upgrading and expanding to meet the needs our community. Without it, The JCC may have no choice but to find a city that appreciates and welcomes the services that the JCC uniquely offers to a surrounding community. We have not doubt that the presence of the JCC on Mercer Island is a strong reason people choose to live here. Please don't force them to search elsewhere for a supportive local government. Please don't allow a few vocal objectors to drive one of Mercer Island's most cherished and utilized resources to relocate elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Carol and Andy Harris
50 year MI residents

Molly McGuire

From: Anne Masin <annemasin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 7:55 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to strongly encourage your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial. The current zoning simply does not make sense. It's time to correct this!

As a California transplant living in Seattle, the JCC gave me and my young children a home away from home. My husband grew up at the JCC and it has been the center of his Jewish community for generations. My three children attended the ECS, and have participated in many youth programs- basketball, camp, swim lessons and more! My 78 year old father in law, with Parkinson's, is at the J many times a week participating in the Rock Steady classes along with other people from around the Mercer Island area living with Parkinson's. The J is an organization my whole family holds dearly in it's heart. I have had the honor to serve on the J's board for many years now. I love this place and I will do anything to ensure it thrives as an organization for generations to come.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you!
Anne Magnin Masin

Molly McGuire

From: Arlette Ordell <rondjo@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 10:32 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: JCC remodel

Hello
I strongly support the plan to remodel the JCC on Mercer Island. This J serves the entire greater Seattle community and it is open to people of all religious and ethnic groups.

Thanks,
Arlette Ordell
Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: austindcohn@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:48 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for SJCC Project

Hi,

I fully support the rezone on SJCC property so the SJCC can rebuild their facility as they see fit.

Thank you,

Austin Cohn

Austin Cohn
Principal
Wahl & Associates
M: 206.579.1344
www.wahlseattle.com

Washington Law of Real Estate Agency

Molly McGuire

From: Ava Raisi <ava.raisi@googlemail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 4:33 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

As a Mercer Island resident and a member of the J community, I have seen how important the Stroum Jewish Community Center is to our island. The J is much more than a building—it is a place where families connect, children grow, seniors stay active, and people from all backgrounds come together through recreation, education, wellness, and community events.

The J has long been an important part of Mercer Island and has served generations of families as a true community gathering place. Updating the Comprehensive Plan and land use designation to reflect its long-standing role is a practical and forward-looking decision that will allow the J to continue serving our community for generations to come.

Please support this amendment and help ensure the J remains a vibrant part of Mercer Island's future.

Thanks,
Ava

Molly McGuire

From: Avi Freedman <af@thefitnessoutlet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:03 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

[State why you value the J, and your relationship with the J. For example: I've been coming to the J since…; My kids have attended the J….; My family has used the J….]

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Avi Freedman
The Fitness Outlet, Inc

Molly McGuire

From: Barbara Cohen <cohenhead1@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 7:25 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: SJCC

Dear Planning Commission,

"I'm writing to urge your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial." The J has been serving the Mercer Island community — **as a community center** — for over 55 years. My hope is it will be here for another 55. I am not a land-use expert, but I know for certain the J has always served the community as a gathering space, an activity center, a school, and as a place for reflection and community — **it has never been in single family use**. As such, the city should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property. More importantly, it will allow the J to continue to serve the Mercer Island community without hindrance.

Please approve this amendment.

Barby Cohen,
Long time Mercer Islander and past daily user of The J

Sent from my iPad

Molly McGuire

From: Benjamin Diament <bdiament@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 11:47 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: I support rezoning for the SJCC

My name is Benjamin Diament; I live on Mercer Island, and I am a close neighbor of the SJCC living about a quarter mile away on El Dorado Drive. I fully support the SJCC's plan to modernize and expand.
Most importantly, however, I support property rights. This should not be a matter of popular vote or majority rule. In general, a proper rights-respecting council should ignore neighbor objections to their neighbor's rights to build, use, benefit from, dispose, and alienate their property as they see fit. Except in the most extraordinary circumstances, stay out of controlling private property. Instead you should, in general, favor granting permits to owners of private property or require them less often.
Thank you,
Benjamin Diament

Molly McGuire

From: Benjamin Pariser <pariser@bpsqd.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:02 AM
To: Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Planning Commission; Council
Subject: Mercer Island JCC - Support

Dear Mercer Island,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

I am a Mercer Island resident and the JCC has been an integral part of my life since 1982. This institution has been there at every stage of my life. And the JCC has provided a safe community space for my family and children since they were infants through their present teenage years.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years.

Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,
Benjamin S. Pariser
206-963-4818

Molly McGuire

From: beth lippman <b.lippman@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 6:42 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Expanding the JCC

I am a member of the JCC and find it a welcoming ming and busy place for prople of all ethnicities We meed to expand to serve the people Please allow the expansion

Beth Lippman
Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: Bonnie Cape <bonnie@capefamily.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 5:57 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Planning Commission Public Hearing in support of the JCC

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

The J was one of our first connections to our local Jewish community when my husband and I moved to the Seattle area in 1993. Since then, our family has been a member of the J consistently for over 30 years. It's where we took our kids to preschool for 9 consecutive years, where they went to summer camp as young kids and where we work out almost daily. The J where we met many of our closest friends today, dating back to the late 90's.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you,

Bonnie Cape

--
Bonnie Cape
425-785-8813



Molly McGuire

From: Brian Schultz <brian@schultzworld.net>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 8:19 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: SJCC / Planning Commission

Hello,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

My son works at the JCC and both sons have attended camp and other activities there. I am a member.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Best,
Brian

--
Brian Schultz | Connect on LinkedIn | Follow me on Twitter | +1 206-910-7160

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:48 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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-----Original Message-----
From: Brooke Pariser <brookepariser@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 8:12 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I attended preschool and summer camp at the JCC and both of my children have done the same. My entire family grew up at the JCC and nothing has changed at all in that time and it desperately needs a lot of improvements to be able to sustain the future generations as the current building is falling apart.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,
Brooke Pariser
Mercer Island Resident for 36 years
Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: BRUCE B LEVY <westcoastfish@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 10:56 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

My kids have attended the JCC since 1996 for our daughter's pre-school and use of the exercise room.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for **ALL ETHNICITIES** - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Bruce B Levy
3828 Greenbrier Lane
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Bruce Levy
Tel. **206-930-8222**
westcoastfish@hotmail.com

Molly McGuire

From: Candace Friedman <candacebfriedman@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 2:45 PM
To: Planning Commission
Cc: Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: SJCC

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. My family has been a part of the J since we moved to the Seattle area over 26 years ago and have spent countless hours at the SJCC. From pre-school to fitness classes, swim lessons to fundraising events, lectures to cooking classes -- the J has always provided a rich and diverse menu of offerings for all ages.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community - as a community center - for over 55 years! Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensue the J can continue to serve our growing community and thrive for the next 55 years!

Many thanks,

Candace

Molly McGuire

From: Carin Jacobson <csulman@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 3:12 PM
To: Council
Cc: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

For me, the J has never simply been a building—it has always been my second home.I first came to the J as a preschooler. I went to camp there, participated in high school programming, and later returned as an adult to work out and stay connected to my community. Now, I've had the privilege of watching my own children grow up at the J, creating memories and friendships that I know will last a lifetime, just as mine have.

Some of my closest friends today are people I met at the J decades ago. The same is true for my children. The J is where relationships are built across generations. It is where traditions are celebrated, identity is strengthened, and Jewish pride is nurtured in a welcoming, joyful environment. It is where our entire community gathers to celebrate milestones, support one another through difficult times, and simply be together.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community, not just the Jewish community, for over 55 years. I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to service our community and thrive on Mercer Island. Doing so is an investment not just in a property, but in the future of our community. It will ensure that future generations of children can find the same lifelong friendships, sense of belonging, and deep connection to Jewish life that my family and I have found at the J.The J has been my home away from home for my entire life. I hope it will continue to be that home for generations of families yet to come.

Respectfully,

Carin Jacobson

Molly McGuire

From: Carin Riekes Parcel <carinparcel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 5:10 PM
To: Deb Estrada; Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

Since moving here 17 years ago, the J has been our family's community. I moved here with a toddler and enrolled her at the J for classes so I could meet other moms. From that day forward all my kids (3) attended preschool there, participated in sports, has birthday parties at the facility, attended movies and community events. My husband joined the board and has remained on the finance committee for almost 8 years now. The J has been and always will be our community. Growing up in Omaha, the JCC facility was stellar - it brought together so many people and houses incredible organizations. Part of the reason it can accomplish this as well as other premier community centers across the country is the ability of the building and land to be updated, laid out appropriately, and be accessible.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you,
Carin Parcel

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 4:32 PM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Urging revision of the comprehensive plan

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Carla Tobis <cjtobis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 3:24 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Urging revision of the comprehensive plan

To members of the Mercer Island Planning Commission,
I will be unable to attend the upcoming Planning Commission meeting in person, yet I am passionate about the need to modify the Comprehensive plan and land use maps to address the erroneous designation of the JCC as a single family property.

My name is Carla Greenbaum. I've been a Mercer Island resident for more than 30 years and a member of the Jewish Community Center for the same length of time. My four children, who are now adults with their own families and all of whom live on Mercer Island, all attended JCC pre-school and camps, participated in sports through the JCC and developed lasting relationships. My five Mercer Island grandchildren are now also active at the JCC. In addition, is my own personnel connection. I regularly use the pool to swim laps, I attend exercise classes, and interact with others at events such as celebration of holidays, movies, education. The JCC has been an essential part of my family's life for decades and has been a key attraction of living on Mercer Island all these years.

The current designation of the SJCC as a single family property is patently incorrect. The JCC has been a community center - serving the Mercer Island community for more than 50 years. I'm therefore writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan - and align the zoning with the reality that the property is a commercial and not-single family residence.

This change in the comprehensive plan and land use maps will allow the JCC to continue to add value to Mercer Island residents for the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carla Greenbaum
7411 SE 36th St
Mercer Island, WA 09804
cjtobis@gmail.com

Molly McGuire

From: Carol Schapira <cookela328@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 3:22 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

My now 40 year old kids were in preschool and camps for many years… I have attended and been a volunteer at countless events since we moved to Mercer Island in 1990.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Respectfully,

Carol Schapira
206.321.2554

Molly McGuire

From: Carol Shafer <aloha4now@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:52 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I am a resident of Mercer Island. I attend classes at the J five days a week. I have developed close friendships here. I credit the J with improving my physical strength as well as my mobility. The J definitely needs modernization. I look forward to seeing the J renovated so it can better serve its patrons and the community at large.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,
Carol Shafer

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 8:55 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Catherine Ford <fordjc@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

My husband and I joined the "J" several years ago. Now that we are spending more time on Mercer Island while at the J, we find that we have been doing more of our shopping on Mercer Island. Supporting local businesses (or their branches) such as Island Books, Able Acupuncture, Metropolitan Market, QFC, Mercer Island Farmers's Market, Barrels Wine Shop, True Value Hardware (so much better than Home Depot), Shell station, Mercer Island Pilates, Bank of America (Mercer Island branch).

Allowing the J to better serve the community with an improved facility serves everyone.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you.
-Cathy and Jim Ford
2119 104th PL SE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Molly McGuire

From: Catherine Lee <clee921@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 5:52 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

My family moved to Mercer Island in June 2023, and we immediately became members of the SJCC as it was so well regarded in the community as a center for fostering friendships with any person regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. The J is a center where my children enjoy camps, sports, swim, arts, and have the opportunity to learn Jewish culture. I regularly use the J to maintain my fitness and health. While my family is not Jewish, I deeply appreciate the support this center provides to all the families who follow the Jewish faith. We always feel so welcomed at the J by the staff and feel as part of the community despite my family not being of Jewish heritage. This center is a jewel on the island.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. However, in order to continue to serve all its members optimally in the future, we need to plan now for the future. The SJCC could benefit from building expansion and updates to serve its members safely and optimally. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,
Catherine Lee
Mercer Island Resident and SJCC Member

Molly McGuire

From: Cindy Masin <cindy.masin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 11:10 AM
To: Deb Estrada; Alison Van Gorp; Council; Planning Commission
Subject: Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Members of the Planning Commission of Mercer Island,

I am writing to urge your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. The J has been serving the entire Mercer Island community (NOT ONLY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY BUT THE ENTIRE MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY) — as a community center — for over 55 years. My husband and I have been Mercer Island residents and members for nearly all of those 55 years and we use it regularly. My husband attends Rock Steady Boxing there every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It is a community wide fitness program for people with Parkinson's Disease...not just Jewish people or SJCC members. Anyone can participate! Our kids and grandchildren have all matriculated through the SJCC Early Childhood Program alongside a very diverse group of kids. And, even now, they return to the "J" for various volunteer and cultural opportunities that are not limited to the J's members. My hope is that the J will be here for at least another 55 years. I am definitely not a land-use expert, but I know for certain the J has always served the community as a gathering space, an activity center, a school, and as a place for reflection and community — **it has never been in single family use.** As such, the city should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property. More importantly, it will allow the J to continue to serve the Mercer Island community without hindrance.

I recommend and urge your approval of this comprehensive plan amendment.

Thank you so much!

Cindy Masin

7208 North Mercer Way

Mercer Island, WA. 98040

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:42 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Cindy Paborsky <dcpaborsky@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 8:42 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

> I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.
>
> I have been a member of the J for more than 15 years. I have met and built a community of people thru the J. I am an active user of the fitness center, pool, regularly play pickleball during rainy season and attend community events, comedians, author talks, and movie festivals. It is a huge asset to living on Mercer Island.
>
> The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you,
Cindy Paborsky

Molly McGuire

From: Cindy Stratiner <cstratiner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:49 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Amend JCC property to commercial

Hello.
My Name is Cindy Stratiner. I grew up in Bellevue and went to the JCC regularly with my family. We played and participated in sports, we participated in all kinds of classes, including art, music, theater, and I learned to swim at the JCC. We also came for community. When I married and moved to Issaquah, we chose to send our 3 boys to preschool at the JCC. They also did camps of all kinds and many sporting activities. We also participated in community activities especially the Purim Carnival every year.
Now they bring their children (our grandchildren) to the JCC.
I urge your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community — as a community center — for over 55 years. My hope is it will be here for another 55. I am not a land-use expert, but I know for certain the J has always served the community as a gathering space, an activity center, a school, and as a place for reflection and community — it has never been in single family use. As such, the city should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property. More importantly, it will allow the J to continue to serve the Mercer Island community without hindrance.
I strongly recommend and hope that you will approve this comprehensive plan amendment.
Sincerely,
Cindy Stratiner
cstratiner@gmail.com

Molly McGuire

From: Courtney <courtneykeller@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 4:08 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I attended the preschool at the J when I was growing up and now I take my 18 month old to mommy and me classes with the hopes of her attending for preschool.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Courtney Keller

Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: Craig Katz <craigakatz@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:26 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: The J is for the whole community

All
Why is rational, positive, supportive action so difficult for this community?! All the SJCC does is of benefit for the whole island - people of ALL ethnicities and religions. The haters - and you know who they - are enemies of the people and just need to be ignored. Do what it takes to let the J flourish and elevate its ability to serve this *whole community*. The city has done a masterful job holding up progress for at least the 15 years I've lived here. It's time to let the good guys finally win.

Craig Katz
206-303-7502

Molly McGuire

From: Daniel Friedman <danielbfriedman@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I attended preschool at the JCC in the early 1970's and more recently my kids attended preschool there too. It has been a center of activity in our community for both religious and secular events it's entire existence. When I found out the land is still zoned as single family use, I initially laughed and thought it was a joke, or some silly error that never got corrected many years ago. It's time to fix that.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

As Mercer Island works to develop its density "downtown" and now has functioning light rail, the need for nearby community services adds even more value. The J is a large and active preschool, fitness center, place for community events, lectures, and other activities for members, non-members, and everyone in the area.

It is especially important at a time when anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment is rising, that our community actually increase the engagement and cross-religious bonds that the J provides. Please support the J in expanding its mission to do exactly that.

Sincerely,

Dan Friedman
Mercer Island

Molly McGuire

From: Dana Azose <danaaz@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:08 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: The JCC builds future leaders

I have been a member of the JCC my entire life. I grew up there, and later I raised my own children there. I'm sure you've heard many reasons why people choose to invest in the J, but I'd like to share one that is especially meaningful to me.

The J doesn't just serve families—it helps shape the next generation by giving young people meaningful opportunities to work, lead, and grow. Both of my children, along with countless others, got their first jobs at the J as camp counselors. They learned responsibility, accountability, teamwork, and what it means to show up for others.

For my daughter, working as a camp counselor sparked a passion for teaching. She went on to earn her master's degree in education and now has a career she truly loves. My son chose a different professional path and works in banking, but the values he developed at the J stayed with him. For the past 15 years, he has continued to coach youth sports, giving back to the next generation in the same spirit that the J invested in him.

Today's job market is challenging, and it can be difficult for young people to gain the experience employers value. The J provides that critical first opportunity. Every summer I watch new camp counselors, lifeguards, coaches, and teachers begin their journeys there, building confidence, developing leadership skills, and discovering passions that often last a lifetime.

I am proud to support an organization that strengthens our community not only through its programs, but by investing in young people and helping develop the skills, character, and leadership of our future.

Thanks for your consideration,
Dana Azose

Molly McGuire

From: Dana Weiner <danarweiner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 10:48 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for the SJCC

I am writing to urge you to support amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) property from Single-Family Residential to Commercial.

I have been part of the J community for more than 30 years. My children attended preschool and summer camp there, and their first jobs were as camp counselors. During the 15 years my family lived on Mercer Island, the J played a central role in our lives and enriched our experience as residents.

For more than 55 years, the J has served as a true community center for Mercer Island. It is much more than a recreational facility—it is a place where people of all ages come together to learn, celebrate, volunteer, build friendships, and support one another. The J also serves as an important feeder to Mercer Island schools, bringing young families to the Island and contributing to the vitality of our community.

What makes the J especially valuable is that it is open and welcoming to everyone. While it proudly celebrates Jewish culture, traditions, and values, its programs and facilities serve people of all backgrounds, faiths, and identities. Families attend preschool, swim lessons and camps, neighbors use the fitness center, seniors participate in social and wellness programs, and community members gather for cultural events, educational programs, and service opportunities. In a time when opportunities for genuine connection are increasingly rare, the J provides an inclusive space where people can build relationships across generations and backgrounds.

Communities are strengthened by institutions that foster belonging, engagement, and mutual understanding. The J does exactly that. It has been an integral part of Mercer Island for decades, and its land-use designation should reflect the way the property has long functioned-as a vibrant community center serving the broader public.

Please align the Comprehensive Plan and land use maps with this longstanding reality by redesignating the SJCC property as Commercial. Doing so will ensure that the J can continue to serve Mercer Island, welcome all members of the community, and thrive for the next 55 years and beyond.

Sincerely,
Dana Weiner

Molly McGuire

From: Deb Estrada
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:03 AM
To: Daniel Kezner
Subject: RE: Support the SJCC Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Staff recognizes and appreciates your public comment on the SJCC's Comprehensive Plan Amendment application. Your comment has been saved in the project record, and you are now a Party of Record.

If you would like to know more about the Stroum Jewish Community Center Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment and Rezone Project, please see the Project Website (https://letstalk.mercergov.org/sjcc-cpa-rezone-project) for more information and supporting documents.

Best,

Deb

Deborah Estrada, MMC
Administrative Coordinator/Deputy City Clerk
City of Mercer Island - Community Planning & Development
206-275-7791 | www.mercerisland.gov

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From: Daniel Kezner <dan@keznerconsulting.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:39 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Support the SJCC Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Dan Kezner
7248 SE 27th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

I am writing to urge your support for amending the Comprehensive Plan and changing the designation of the Stroum Jewish Community Center property from single family to commercial.

I have lived on Mercer Island for most of my life, and the JCC has been one of the most important and frequently used community assets in my experience. In high school, I attended youth group meetings there and formed friendships that have lasted a lifetime. I worked out at the JCC for more than 20 years, and both of my children attended preschool there for five years each. Today, my sons attend the same youth group meetings that I attended when I was their age.

For more than 55 years, the JCC has served as a true community center for Mercer Island. It is part of the identity and fabric of the Island, supporting children, families, adults, and seniors in countless ways. The proposed improvements are necessary to ensure that the JCC can continue meeting the needs of our community for generations to come.

Please align the Comprehensive Plan and land use maps with the reality of how this property has long been used. Updating the designation will help the JCC remain on Mercer Island, make needed improvements, and continue serving the community for the next 55 years and beyond. These improvements will provide significant benefits to the entire Island, and it would be a great loss if they were unable to move forward.

Sincerely,

Dan Kezner

Daniel Kezner

President
Kezner Consulting Group
m: 206-715-0881
e: dan@keznerconsulting.com
www.keznerconsulting.com
www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-kezner



Molly McGuire

From: dave-landsman@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 4:22 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Please approve the JCC plan

Hi,
I'm David Landsman, an MI resident since 1999, and JCC member since 1994 when we moved to the Northwest and lived in Kirkland. Our son went to pre-school at the J.

I am no expert on city planning, but I'm surprised, and it makes no sense to me, that the J would be zoned as single family. The city should zone the JCC campus for what it is, a commercial entity serving Mercer Island and beyond. Surely the J can better plan its future without having to arbitrarily navigate single family zoning when putting forward plans for the site.

Please amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

Best regards,
David Landsman
7210 79th Ave SE
Mercer Island

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 1:57 PM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Comments on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: David Paborsky <dmp@igpequity.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 1:53 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Cc: Cindy Paborsky <dcpaborsky@yahoo.com>
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I have been a member of the J for more than 15 years. I have met and know 100's of people thru the J. I am an active user of the fitness center, pool, regularly play pickleball during rainy season and attend community events, comedians, author talks, and movie festivals. It is a huge asset to living on Mercer Island.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Molly McGuire

From: David W. <surjin907@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 5:16 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Mercer Island JCC

Planning Commission,

This email is in complete support of a Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. I am a member who uses the J for exercise and classes for my medical issues. The J is a critical member of the MI community for those of us that cannot afford other expensive facilities nor can easily commute to outside of MI. Please allow this change so we can update the facilities.

David White
Patrick White

Molly McGuire

From: David Youssefnia <dyoussefnia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 7:32 PM
To: Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council; Planning Commission
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission and City Council

I encourage you to support amending the Comprehensive Plan to redesignate the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

For my family, the J has been much more than a building. All three of my children attended preschool there, and as they grew, they participated in camps and other programs that helped make the J a central part of their childhood. Today, it continues to be a place where adults gather, families connect, and our community comes together.

That experience isn't unique to my family. For more than 55 years, the J has been a cornerstone of Mercer Island—a place that serves young families, children, teens, older adults, and people from every corner of our community. It has long functioned as a true community center, and its land use designation should reflect that reality.

Updating the Comprehensive Plan and land use maps is a practical, common-sense step that recognizes how the property has served Mercer Island for decades. More importantly, it will help ensure the J can continue to evolve, serve future generations, and remain a vibrant community asset for the next 55 years and beyond.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Thanks,

David Youssefnia
917-701-9143

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 9:23 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Please support changing the designation of the SJCC property

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Deb Arnold <debarnold01@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 8:32 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Please support changing the designation of the SJCC property

Dear Mercer Island leaders,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

As a member of the greater Seattle Jewish community, I have attended countless cultural events at the J over the years, including yearly attendance at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival. The J has been one of the vital organs of our community for over 55 years. We need it to survive and thrive.

Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Deb Arnold

Deb Arnold
debarnold01@gmail.com
+1 206-734-9899

Molly McGuire

From: Deb Schweikert <debagrin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 7:56 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

The J has been an invaluable place for our kids since we moved to Mercer Island in 2020. They have attended preschool, afterschool programs, swim lessons, and J camp each year since then.

And we're an example of just one of many many families that rely on the J. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years.

Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Best,
Deb Schweikert

Molly McGuire

From: Deborah A. Lawson <deborahalawson@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 8:19 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

Although, we don't live on Mercer Island, the JCC has been both valuable to my family and me over the years. I attended various programs at the MIJCC while in high school in the Shoreline School District. I attended both Jewish programs, but above all I used the different athletic facilities and took classes. This was about 50 years ago.

20 years ago, our eldest went to the high school of Jewish Studies at the JCC. A few years ago, my husband and I took Bridge playing classes for about 8 weeks in a row. Every year we attend the Jewish Film Festival movies at the JCC as well as many other events including speakers, cookbook tours, wine tastings, etc.

The JCC is on Mercer Island, but because it's on the north end of the island, it's very easy to get to from our north end Seattle home.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

The J is not only a community gathering space for Jewish people from the greater Seattle and Eastside area, it is also a gathering place for people who live on or near Mercer Island to work out or take various classes.

Thank you.

Debbie Lawson

Molly McGuire

From: Deborah Levinger <dlevinger99@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 12:18 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

[State why you value the J, and your relationship with the J. For example: I've been coming to the J since…; My kids have attended the J….; My family has used the J….]

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Molly McGuire

From: Deborah Urman <dburman319@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:34 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

July 27, 2026

Dear Planning Committee Representative,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. As a homeowner on Mercer Island, parent and career educator, the JCC created a familiar home away from home, a learning community and safe place for my children when they were very young. As they grew up, they continued to frequent the JCC as a camper and exercise enthusiast. As parents, we continued to support the JCC by attending many evening programs, cooking classes and exercise classes.

Fact is, the JCC has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. It has not been updated to meet current standards in all the years my family has used it. My family and many, many others have moved to this area because it has a local JCC. Where else, other than the schools, can you see generation after generation, grow and continue to learn?

I urge you to please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect the current reality and ensure the JCC can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you,
Deborah Urman
7025 82nd Ave. SE
Mercer Island, WA

Molly McGuire

From: denisejoffe@mac.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:00 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: JCC rezone request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

July 31, 2026

To the MI city council:

I'm writing to urge your support for amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family residential to commercial, allowing the Jewish Community Center to move forward with plans to replace its aging facility.

I'm here as a passionate member of the Mercer Island community and as someone who regularly uses the JCC. I visit several times a week for fitness and classes, and I have come to appreciate the J as much more than a Jewish institution. It is a community resource that welcomes people of all backgrounds and serves Islanders at every stage of life—from preschoolers and families to adults and seniors.

The JCC is an important part of the fabric of Mercer Island. It provides opportunities for fitness, education, recreation, childcare, and community connection. It also makes an effort to ensure that cost is not a barrier for those who cannot afford membership. In that sense, the J's mission extends well beyond its membership. It contributes to the health, well-being, and vitality of our entire island community.

But the current facility is aging, outdated, and no longer able to meet the needs of the community it serves. It is not simply a matter of wanting a newer or larger building. The existing structure presents significant challenges related to safety, accessibility, infrastructure, and security. At a time when antisemitism is on the rise and security concerns are very real, the limitations of the current facility are particularly troubling. It is difficult to accept that armed officers must stand outside in the rain and cold to protect the building and the people inside it. A modern facility would provide the opportunity to address these concerns in a way that the existing building simply cannot.

I understand that some Islanders have concerns about the proposed project, including traffic, membership growth, the scale of the new building, and whether rezoning would provide the JCC with an unfair advantage. These concerns deserve to be considered carefully, but I also believe they need to be evaluated in the context of what this project means for Mercer Island as a whole.

The proposed redevelopment is not an effort to fundamentally change the character of the East Mercer Way community. It is an opportunity to replace an aging facility with a modern, safe, and functional community resource.

I also believe the proposed rezoning should be viewed in the context of the property's history and existing use. The JCC has long served as a community institution, and the current zoning designation does not fully reflect the property's established role or the services it provides. Changing the designation would allow the land use designation to better align with the reality of how this property has functioned for years.

This decision is ultimately about more than one building or one organization. It is about what kind of community we want Mercer Island to be. Do we want to preserve an aging facility that is increasingly difficult to secure, maintain, and adapt? Or do we want to support the creation of a modern community center that can safely and effectively serve Islanders for decades to come?

I believe Mercer Island is stronger when we invest in institutions that bring people together, support families, promote health and wellness, care for children and seniors, and provide a place where people from different backgrounds can connect. The JCC is one of those institutions.

I urge you to support the requested Comprehensive Plan amendment and rezoning. The JCC cannot simply remodel its way out of the limitations of the existing building. It is time for a thoughtful tear-down and rebuild.

The JCC is asking for the opportunity to build a modern facility that can continue serving Mercer Island—safely, inclusively, and for generations to come. I believe that is an investment that benefits the entire island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Denise Joffe

2222 78th Ave SE

Mercer Island, WA 98040

Molly McGuire

From: Dina Holan <dinafes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for Rezoning of the JCC to Commercial Use

Dear Mercer Island Planning Commission and City Council Members,

As a resident of Mercer Island and a member of the JCC, I enthusiastically support the rezoning of the JCC property to Commercial. The J facility has never been in single family use in its 55+ years of existence on Mercer Island. The city should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property.

Through supporting those living on Mercer Island, the JCC supports Mercer Island's stated goal of being a premier residential community. Such support includes providing parents with high-quality childcare and camps, thus enabling families to be able to afford living on MI. The J beautifully serves our MI intergenerational population - teaching our youngest Islanders, and engaging our eldest through thoughtful programming, aquatics classes, and programs like Rock Steady Boxing for people with Parkinson's.

The JCC enriches our lives as Islanders through art exhibits, live performances, and the annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival, while also serving as a third space for us to meet and socialize.

The JCC welcomes all, and likewise WE should welcome its rejuvenation and its ability to make needed repairs and improvements thus enabling it to continue to serve OUR community for the next 55+ years.

Personally, my children attended early childhood school and afterschool care and learned to swim at the J. We have attended cultural events and amazing performances, having a night out all on MI. I want for these resources to be available to current and future MI residents.

With warm regards,
Dina Holan
6121 85th Pl SE

Molly McGuire

From: Dodi Nov <drdodi@bellevuesmiles.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Council; Planning Commission; Deb Estrada; Alison Van Gorp
Subject: Support for SJCC

As a resident of Mercer Island I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. Igrew up there from summer camp to my first job. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Molly McGuire

From: Donna Blankinship <donnablankinship@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 5:54 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Updating zoning for the JCC

Hello planning commission,
I am a frequent visitor to Mercer Island but not a resident. I was surprised to hear that you still haven't updated zoning for the JCC, a simple change that will enable much needed improvements in the facility. I can't think of a single good reason not to grant this request. A better JCC means more people will visit Mercer Island, spend money there and increase the city's tax receipts. An updated building also creates a better place for everyone to gather.

Why would anyone want to block these improvements? I am trying my best not to even consider that antisemitism could be part of the reason. But in today's political climate, anything is possible.

Thank you for doing your best to enable the JCC to move forward to improve the facility.

Donna Blankinship

Molly McGuire

From: Doron Holan <doron_holan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:59 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for the SJCC Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Dear Planning Commission and City Council,

I am writing to urge your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. This change is needed to accurately reflect its current use and use for the past 55 years.

My family and I have been Mercer Island residents for the past 15 years. My first introduction to the J was when I moved to Seattle in 1997. I volunteered at the SJCC advising teens. I served as a volunteer for over a decade.

Years later, my wife and I sent our children to the JCC's early childhood school. We regularly frequented Mercer Island retail, supermarkets, and restaurants during this time. While our children made friends in preschool, we too, made friends and built a community. So much so, that in 2028 we moved to Mercer Island for the Mercer Island School District and the JCC, as well as the community we had forged there. The JCC supports our family and other MI families alike in all life stages. It serves the Mercer Island intergenerational community.

My hope is that the SJCC will continue to be a resource for all of Mercer Island. Recognizing and rectifying the inaccurate zoning designation will allow a revitalization of facilities that are up to code and ADA accessible. These changes will better enable the SJCC to continue to serve our community, Mercer Islanders, and future Mercer Islanders to come for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,
Doron Holan

6121 85th Pl SE

Molly McGuire

From: Doug Rosen <drosen@alascop.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 12:48 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Comprehensive Plan Amendment being discussed tonight.

I am writing to ask for your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family residential to commercial. The SJCC has never been used as a residential facility and has been in place and serving the entire Mercer Island community for 55 years. It only makes sense to have the zoning match the reality on the ground. The City should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property.

My family and I have used this facility for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren. We have lived on Mercer Island for 47 years and the SJCC was one of the major reasons to move here, for pre-school, basketball, swimming, theater arts, films, community events and camps.

It is time for the zoning of this facility to be appropriate to its use. I recommend and urge your approval of the comprehensive plan amendment.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Rosen
President
Alaskan Copper & Brass Company
206-972-3175

Molly McGuire

From: Ed Bridge <edwardlbridge@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 12:11 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Changing SJCC designation property to commercial

To the Members of the Planning Commission,

We are writing to strongly support changing the Comprehensive Plan for the SJCC property from single family to commercial. We are sorry we are unable to attend tonight's planning commission meeting in person. Please accept this email as indicative of our overwhelming support of this amendment to the comprehensive plan.

We have called MI home for the last 30 years (and Ed grew up on the Island for the first 18 years of his life before that, making him a resident for 48 years!). We raised our children here. One of the reasons we moved to the island was the JCC. Both our children attended pre-school there. It is a huge community asset. A place for community members of all ages. It is a draw for our community.

Quite honestly, we were surprised to learn that the area where the J is located was zoned as single family. It makes sense to align the comprehensive plan to reflect the use of this property with the long term asset that the SJCC has been and will continue to be.

Thank you for supporting this amendment.

Ed & Pam Bridge
206-321-3773

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 9:12 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Please support the rezone for the SJCC on Aug. 5

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Elaine Kraft <ejk9151@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 9:08 AM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Please support the rezone for the SJCC on Aug. 5

I was on hand when the SJCC was officially opened in 1969. It was a gem for the island.
Since then, my grandmother, great aunt, parents, husband and I, brothers, children and grandchildren have used it in so very many ways. Sports, culture, day care, preschool, after school, camps and I came backyard later to learn bridge -- meeting a whole new group of Island residents. It is a remarkable place. It must continue to serve that purpose.

But today the building desperately needs your help. It has no HVAC, no elevator and is held together with duct tape! It may be in a residential area but it and has been for almost 60 years a commercial facility serving hundreds of thousands of people.

It should be zoned as such, consistent with its decades old use

Over the years of discussion, J leaders have heard the neighbors and addressed their concerns. No showy building is planned. Buffers, traffic, etc. have all been carefully considered. A revitalized J is needed, and it would be as much a part of the neighborhood as the current J has been. And it would be there for everyone with open doors.

From someone born and raised on the island, to you who are now stewards of the island, I urge you to support the proposed rezone for the SJCC.

Thank you for your consideration

•

Molly McGuire

From: Ellen Brin <elstation@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:39 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: request from ellen rosenstein brin

Dear Planning Commission,
I am writing to urge your support to amend the comprehensive plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from family to commercial.
After moving from the Midwest, my family found the SJCC to be an integral part of our lives and a main reason we chose Mercer Island.
Thank you for your kind attention.
Sincerely,
Ellen Rosenstein Brin

Molly McGuire

From: Deb Estrada
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 7:36 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

From: Ellen Lynn <ellenlynn215@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:49 PM
To: Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Fwd: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Ellen Lynn <ellenlynn215@hotmail.com>
> **Date:** July 27, 2026 at 9:47:16 PM PDT
> **To:** alison.vangorp@mercerisland.gov
> **Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC**
>
> To the Members of the Planning Commission:
>
> I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.
>
> The J welcomed me and my family as newcomers to the Seattle area in 1994. Many friendships were formed from preschool and day camp experiences for us, through community and cultural events, as well as various classes over the years. Most recently I have been attending water aerobic classes, where I have been forming new friendships (and getting much-needed exercise) in a supportive and friendly environment. Those of us with physical limitations would really appreciate an updated, more easily accessible pool and restrooms.
>
> The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.
>
> Thank you for your attention to this matter.
>
> Sincerely,
> Ellen Lynn

Sent from my iPad

Molly McGuire

From: Emmi Kearns <kearnsemmi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 2:02 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I attend the SJCC several times weekly to use the fitness facilities and attend other events such as classes and lectures. My daughter teaches in the preschool. The current building is inadequate to serve the widespread use of the facility. The building is used extensively by Mercer Island residents and folks throughout the Seattle metropolitan area. It is a jewel for the entire city to utilize. The parking area is frequently filled to capacity. As a former Mercer Island resident and MIHS graduate and now Bellevue resident, please comply with updating the property status so we all can continue to use our Community Center and give it the facelift it deserves.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,

Emma Kearns

Molly McGuire

From: Etana Kunovsky <etanaku5@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 12:04 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Timely - Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC - Critical!

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

My family has been coming to the J since 1986. My children attended pre-school and after school activities there. They attended summer camp there for 10 years. They had birthday parties there. They attended holiday and community celebrations and I've attended film festivals. I've served on committees, swam in the lap pool for years and attended adult classes. And now my grandchildren attend youth programs and will soon attend summer camp there. All this to say, the J has been a huge part of our lives.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you,
Etana Kunovsky

Molly McGuire

From: seehuge@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 3:08 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: In Support of JCC Renovation

Planning Commission

I am writing to strongly express my support for the Stroum JCC and its plan to update the facility.

I have been a member of the JCC for about 15 years, using its fitness facility 3 days a week for 60-70 minute workouts. I received my PhD from the UW in nuclear engineering more than 50 years ago and worked at Boeing for 24 years where I achieved the level of Technical Fellow. Thus, I believe that I am a good judge of excellence in Seattle institutions. The J operates at a high level, but the facility is old and could use renovation, which I strongly support.

Thank you,
Dr. Eugene Normand
email: seehuge@aol.com

Molly McGuire

From: E Jimenez <sra.ejimenez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the SJCC Property

Dear Members of the Mercer Island Planning Commission and City Council,

I am writing to respectfully urge your support for amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC (The J) property from single-family to commercial.

I have lived on Mercer Island for many years and have witnessed firsthand the tremendous value that The J brings to our community. For more than 55 years, it has never functioned as a single-family property. Instead, it has served as a true community center that welcomes everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs or background. Over the years, I have had the privilege of participating in many activities at The J.

I have attended educational programs, community events, and fitness classes, and I have seen children, families, adults, and seniors all benefit from what this special place offers. The fitness and wellness programs are especially important for many older adults, providing opportunities to stay active, healthy, and socially connected. The J truly offers something meaningful for every generation.

One of the things I admire most is that The J creates a welcoming environment where people feel they belong. It brings neighbors together, builds friendships, supports families, and strengthens the sense of community that makes Mercer Island such a wonderful place to live. Countless children have grown up participating in programs there, and many adults continue to benefit from its services throughout their lives.

Like many community facilities that have served for decades, the building now needs significant care and investment. I believe that updating the property's designation to reflect its longstanding community use will help ensure that these improvements can happen and allow The J to continue serving Mercer Island for generations to come. This change would not only recognize the reality of how the property has been used for decades, but it would also enable it to better meet the
needs of our growing and evolving community while continuing to be a good neighbor.

Please approve this amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and align the land use designation with the property's historic and ongoing role as a community center. Doing so will help ensure that The J continues to enrich the lives of Mercer Island residents for the next 55 years and beyond.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Jimenez
9208 SE 33rd St
Mercer Island. WA 98040

Molly McGuire

From: Eydie Hasson Katz <eydiekatz@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:13 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to AMEND the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I am a Mercer Island resident. I grew up on the east side. I'm 57 years old – the JCC has been part of my life since the beginning. I participated in programming there as a child, I was a summer camp counselor as a teen, both of my children attended the amazing early childhood school there, one of my children currently works there..the list goes on. The JCC is a safe, inclusive, and welcoming place for all kinds of individuals and families throughout the lifecycle.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you,
Eydie Hasson Katz
Get Outlook for iOS

Molly McGuire

From: Francesca Mahoney <francesca.mahoney1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 1:20 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Dear Planning Commissioners,

My family moved to Mercer Island a little over a year ago, and one of the first places that made this feel like home was the J. My daughter's preschool held its holiday concert there, and it's since become a regular stop for our family's workouts and activities.

That's exactly why I'm asking you to support amending the Comprehensive Plan to redesignate the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

This isn't a new use for the site — the J has operated as an open community center on Mercer Island for more than five decades. The zoning simply hasn't caught up to what the property has always been. Updating the Comprehensive Plan and land use maps to reflect that reality would let the J keep doing what it's done since long before most of us lived here: giving island families, new and longtime alike, a place to gather.

Thank you for considering this.

Best,

Francesca Mahoney

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 4:32 PM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: SJCC rezoning

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Fred Tobis <fredtobis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 3:40 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: SJCC rezoning

To Members of the Mercer Island Planning Commission,

I am writing to urge you to amend the land use maps and Comprehensive Plan to change the erroneous designation of the JCC from single family property to its real use - a community center that benefits a significant proportion of Mercer Island residents.

I have been a Mercer Island resident for more than 30 years. We've raised 4 children who currently are all Mercer Island residents. They all attended JCC preschool, camps, sports, and holiday activities. They made lasting friendships. It truly has been a community center for them. The next generation is now also embedded with the JCC - the 5 grandkids enjoy the preschool and facilities. In addition, I make regular use of the JCC classes, gym, and cultural activities.

It is time to correct an obvious mischaracterization - the JCC has been a commercial property and community center for more than 50 years. Please amend the Comprehensive plan to reflect reality and allow this facility to continue to serve Mercer Island residents and families in the years ahead.

I'm writing to you, because I'm unable to attend the planning meeting in person. Yet, this issue is incredibly important to me, my family, and to the greater Mercer Island community Jews and non-Jews alike. It is a place to be with neighbors, it is a place that creates the environment that Mercer Island residents come here for.

Thank you for your attention,
Fredric Tobis
7411 SE 36th St
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Molly McGuire

From: Gail Zucker <zuckerg2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:49 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I've been coming to the J since 1983. My kids have attended the JCC preschool and after school programs. My family has used the JCC for special programming and events over the years.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Gail Zucker
Mobile: 415 235 2696
Email: Zuckerg2020@gmail.com

Molly McGuire

From: Garrett Hyman <garretthyman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 2:06 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC -- 2026 08 05

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

My family have been members of the SJCC since 2003. My children attended the pre-school. We routinely attend community events there. We work out there regularly.

Nonetheless the SJCC is a very important place for our family (and for many of our friends).

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely yours,

Garrett and Rachel Hyman
6924 SE Allen St
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206 852 8898

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 8:47 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Commercial Zoning for the J!

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: gina gonchar <ginagonchar@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2026 9:39 PM
To: Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Council <council@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; City Clerk <cityclerk@mercerisland.gov>
Subject: Commercial Zoning for the J!

Dear Mercer Island City Council and Planning Commission,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. The J is what drew my family to live within easy access to Mercer Island. I sent my kids to the preschool there, we participated in basketball and swimming, the gym, evening classes, lectures and the library. My kids had their first jobs as camp counselors and lifeguards at the J. We come to the J for community events and holiday events. We met our first and lasting friends at the J. It's the heartbeat of Mercer Island and unequivocally deserves your support! The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Enough of the bureaucratic runaround. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect the reality of the J as a commercial entity that is integral to the success of Mercer Island.

Sincerely,
Gina Gonchar
PO Box 413
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Molly McGuire

From: Ginger Howse <gingrhowse@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 10:24 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial. I've been coming to the J since 2014 and I would like to continue my activities at the J for a long time to come.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you for listening!

Ginger Howe

206-696-1464

Molly McGuire

From: Glen Lutchman <glen.lutchman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 9:28 PM
To: Alison Van Gorp; Planning Commission; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support expansion of SJCC

I'm writing to give my support to the rezoning and expansion of SJCC. They do a lot for my community and I would like to see them grow and do more

Best
Glen

Molly McGuire

From: Gloria Wolfe <gloria@wolfedwelling.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:40 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Cc: Gloria Wolfe
Subject: Supporting the comprehensive plan change for the J

Dear Planning commission,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. As a 20 member of the SJCC and living on the Island for 17 years, I can't think of a more welcoming community center.

The SCC welcomed us not only to Washington State, but to becoming parents, raising our children on the Island and creating and fostering a community of friends who have supported our family for many years now. Our friends were made through the SJCC and continue to be our nearest and dearest people in WA. Our kids' friends continue to be the ones they went to preschool with at the SJCC. We have done Dinky Dunkers, J Explorers, Parents nights out, Adult Co-Rec Slow Pitch Softball, the Jewish Film Festival at the SJCC. We have been to Mitzvahs and auctions, celebrations of Life, parties and everything in between. We have done exercise at the SJCC, our kids learned to swim at the SJCC and we continue to utilize the SJCC for adult programming.

It's time for major improvements and updates and upgrades to the SJCC. Please please please allow the SJCC to stay relevant for the next generation of Washingtonians.

The SJCC has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,

Gloria Wolfe
425 922 7675

Molly McGuire

From: hayley d <hayleyduitch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:41 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

The J has been part of my family for generations. My husband and I both attended preschool there, as did our children. I worked at the J as a teenager, and today both of my kids work there as well, and also attend youth group meetings each week. Over the years I've taken classes and attended lectures at the J, my husband played in the basketball and baseball leagues, and my parents made some of their closest, lifelong friends through the community there, friendships that helped shape my own childhood. Three generations of my family have called the J home, and it has never once functioned as a single-family residence. It has always been exactly what it is today: a school, a gathering space, an activity center, and a cornerstone of community life on Mercer Island.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community, as a community center, for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality, and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,
Hayley Duitch
6551 80th Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Molly McGuire

From: Heidi Behrens-Benedict <hbbenedict@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 3:58 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: The comprehensive plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

- Dear Friends on the Mercer Island City Council ~
-
- I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.
-
- Why is this important to me? I've been attending Aqua Fit classes five days a week since I joined the J. When friends ask me why I've so happy about my membership, I tell them about how it feels to walk out of the dressing room onto the pool deck and have a dozen+ women turn and smile.
-
- What a great way to start the day.
-
- The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Heidi Behrens-Benedict, ASID, NCIDQ

Behrens-Benedict Limited
1844 140th Avenue Southeast
Bellevue WA 98005

206-412-0610

www.BehrensBenedict.com

Molly McGuire

From: Feiock Heidi <heidiashleyfeiock@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:07 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

The JCC has been a place of inclusiveness and gathering. Since we moved here with our two children in 2024; we have used the facility for a place that provides a safe, nurturing and educational space for our children to grow and learn. Myself uses it as a space to stay healthy and clear my mind by using the gym and attending the fitness classes. My family has also attended some of the events held by the JCC such as the movies and a treat. (Frozen and frozen yogurt) (Moana and milkshakes). My oldest daughter takes swim lessons there and has made a lot of improvement through the lessons. We also use the pool to attend open swim with both our young children. Regardless of one's religion or beliefs we have felt welcomed and it is a place everyone on the island and beyond can enjoy.
Please consider changing the zoning from single family to commercial for the JCC to continue to server and support our community as it moves foward.
The Frizzells

Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: Ian Morris <ianmorris@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:05 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Counting on Your Support

Members of the Planning Commission,

The Jewish Community Center has been serving Mercer Island families for decades. It is a cherished institution that has been invaluable to my family and was central to our decision to relocate from Kirkland to Mercer Island after our children were born. The JCC is a core part of what makes Mercer Island such a great community, not just for Jewish families but for local families of all faiths. It is a safe and welcoming place for our children to receive early childhood education, attend arts and cultural events, swim, exercise, and be made to feel a part of a very welcoming community.

At a time when third spaces are so important and often lacking, the JCC is a vital resource and one that needs our continued and ongoing support. It is my sincere hope that you will support amending the comprehensive plan to change the designation of the JCC property from a single family to commercial so that the JCC can continue to serve Mercer Islanders for decades more to come.

Thank you in advance for your support and for your service to our community.

Ian Morris

Molly McGuire

From: Irene Geisner <geisnercoaching@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:03 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial. My kids have attended the j for youth groups and camps. I have attended classes and events and celebrated holidays. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you

Irene Markman Geisner, Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
(206) 419-8999
Eastside Psychological Associates
1740 NW Maple St. Suite 210
Issaquah, WA 98027

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Molly McGuire

From: James Gottesman <james.gottesman@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:57 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: sjcc

Dear MI City Council,

My wife and I moved to the Island in 1978. Following that were three children and seven grandchildren, all who lived on the island. I can't tell you how strongly I believe that the JCC is a Mercer Island treasure but it's in bad need of redevelopment to fulfill its promise to the whole island. I certainly hope that you will go along with the plans for the new JCC.

Sincerely

James Gottesman MD
Gloria Gottesman

james.gottesman@COMCAST.NET

Molly McGuire

From: Jamie Kezner <jamiekezner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 3:48 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support of the SJCC

Dear Planning commission,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

I am a born and raised Islander. My husband and I, who also grew up her, chose to come back to raise our family here. There are so many reasons why we chose to come back but one of them is the support of this community and what it has done for us. A large piece of that community comes from the J. I went to preschool there, worked out there, hung out there and we chose to send our children to pre-school there. It is hard to put into words what one place can be to someone let alone an entire community. I only hope it can be the same to my children, and their children and beyond.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE understand how important the J is and know how much more it can be with this comprehensive plan.

Thank you,
Jamie Kezner

Molly McGuire

From: Jamie Weinstein <jamielynnweinstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 1:22 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for SJCC's Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Rezone request

To the committee,

My name is Jamie Weinstein and I am a proud board member of the SJCC.
I am here to urge your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community — as a community center — for over 55 years. My hope is it will be here for another 55 and beyond. While I don't have children currently, my dearest hope is to have a family one day and have a community and place like the SJCC to raise my kids, just as my parents raised me. All of my formative memories from childhood are at the J, from preschool, to after school gymnastics and musical theater, and of course, summer camp. It left such an imprint on my life that I returned in college to be a camp counselor, and now as an adult, it is a privilege to help shape the future of the organization as a board member. As I am sure you are aware, redeveloping our current physical structure is imperative to the longevity and prosperity of our organization. Our journey to redevelop our campus has been years in the making, and now, more than ever, our community needs the J. I am not a land-use expert, but I know for certain the J has always served the community as a gathering space, an activity center, a school, and as a place for reflection and community — it has never been in single family use. As such, the city should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property. More importantly, it will allow the J to continue to serve the Mercer Island community without hindrance. With that, I urge you to support amending the comprehensive plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Jamie Weinstein

Molly McGuire

From: Janis L Abkowitz <janabk@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 4:44 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

My family has been members of the J for many years. Our two children had swimming lessons there and attended day camps during the summer and school holidays. I played on a women's basketball league and still use the gym. It is a community center for everyone, not a single family use area.

Please change the designation so appropriate upgrades can occur to assure that the facility is safe and can continue to thrive.

Thank you,
Jan Abkowitz

Molly McGuire

From: Jason Koehler <jason@rkkconstruction.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 1:42 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: SJCC Rezone

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing to urge your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. The J has been serving the entire Mercer Island community (NOT ONLY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY BUT THE ENTIRE MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY) — as a community center — for over 55 years. My wife and I have been Mercer Island residents and members for most of those years and we use it regularly. Now my children use it regularly. My hope is it will be here for another 55. I am not a land-use expert, but I know for certain the J has always served the community as a gathering space, an activity center, a school, and as a place for reflection and community — **it has never been in single family use.** As such, the city should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property. More importantly, it will allow the J to continue to serve the Mercer Island community without hindrance.

I Recommend and urge your approval of this comprehensive plan amendment.

Thank you,

Jason Koehler

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 8:54 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: JCC redone

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Jean Dunbabin <jeanfdunbabin@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 3:16 PM
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@mercerisland.gov>
Subject: JCC redone

My husband and I moved to Mercer island over 40 years ago from Kirkland. We built our home here and raised our son here and joined the Jcc and still belong. Now as a senior Citizen It still is an important part of my life. I attend the pool exercises during the week and use the gym. It is an amazing organization that serves everyone .
Our Grandson also attended classes as a preschooler and fought against the racism at Whitman college which he attends presently.
We are not Jewish but the fact that it serves everyone is extremely important.
Jean F Dunbabin

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Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 8:47 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Zoning of JCC

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Jean Dunbabin <jeanfdunbabin@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2026 6:12 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>
Subject: Zoning of JCC

I have been a member of the J since my husband and I first moved to Mercer island over 40 years ago. Our son. David attended

Get Outlook for iOS

Molly McGuire

From: Jean Greaves <jeangreaves@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:09 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: SJCC zoning designation

Hello,

I'm writing to request support for amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the SJCC property designation from single family to commercial. It occupies space that is clearly not a single-family neighborhood, and its ability to meet its stated mission means that it must be able to maintain and upgrade its facilities going forward.

I am a member of SJCC primarily to use its athletic facilities, including the pool. Theirs is the only comprehensive sports facility on Mercer Island that is financially accessible to most. The Beach Club, Country Club, and Shore Club are out of reach for many. Other athletic options are typically single focus. The J's fitness classes and equipment, including swim lessons and aqua classes, are an invaluable resource for me and for the community.

In addition to fitness, the SJCC offers preschool, summer camps, and other programming for kids and families, regardless of faith tradition. When my kids were young they were able to attend camps, theater, and dance at SJCC along with many of their friends.

SJCC has been serving as a community center on Mercer Island for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure that it can continue thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thanks,
Jean Greaves

7428 91st Ave. SE
Mercer Island

Molly McGuire

From: Jean K <jeankanklein@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:17 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

The SJCC has been serving Mercer Island as a community center for all - for over 55 years. The J welcomes everyone, no matter what their ethnicity, age, etc. More than 1/3 of Mercer Island belongs to the J, however you don't need be a member to take advantage of its programs and facilities.

On a personal level, when I moved to Mercer Island from the Midwest in 1974, I didn't know anyone and there weren't many avenues for people to make friends. We immediately joined the J and have been members ever since. Our children were in daycare, preschool, camp, sports, continuing education, etc. and the J has been a focal point in all of our lives. The J has provided a foundation for life and, by the values that the J promotes, to become good citizens of the world. All 4 of our children are productive members of society and I attribute much of that to their lifelong connection to the J. And for me, the J has been a place of instant warmth and connection throughout my whole life.

The current building is basically the same one that was there in 1974. At this point it is well past the life span for just "fixes". It needs a building that is up to code, ADA accessible and realigned to meet the shared goals of the J, our neighbors, and the Mercer Island community. Very much thought and planning have gone into the proposed plan keeping consideration of neighbors and community at the forefront.

Changing the land use designation will not in any way change the daily operations of the SJCC. Any future changes in configuration will go through design review and significant public processes. The J will be subject to the same land use protocol as similarly zoned properties including its next door neighbor, Mercer Island City Hall. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jean Klein

Molly McGuire

From: Deb Estrada
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:17 PM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: JCC Rezone

-----Original Message-----
From: Jeff Bean <olyhardware@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 3:49 PM
To: Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: JCC Rezone

Dear Council Members,
I am reaching out to ask that you approve The JCC rezone for their remodel. I use the gym at this facility at least twice a week. It is a critical part of my health regimen. I implore you to make it possible for the JCC to remodel and update their aging facilities.
Jeff Bean
Age 78

Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: jeff @jkanter.com <jeff@jkanter.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 7:17 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Mercer Island JCC rezone

Dear friends,

I am a long-time Mercer Island resident and member of the JCC for over 30 years. The JCC is a vital community resource with up to one-third of MI residents as members. It is open to Islanders of all faiths and creeds.

Programs at the JCC are incredibly popular and the facility is outgrowing its space constraints. Please act favorably on the necessary actions to expand this important and beloved community resource.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeffrey Kanter, DDS, MS
Susan Kleiner, PhD

Molly McGuire

From: Jennifer Emm <hello@jenniferemm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:23 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Council; Deb Estrada
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I was literally raised at the JCC and it has played a role in every stage of my life. As a baby, preschooler, teen, and parent. And, now that I'm 53, I will by relying the J's service to support me as I move into my older years.

Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for another 55 years.





My daughter's turn at the J. She took dance, swimming, and art. My son went to preschool there.



A JCC field trip to Luther Burbank. I'm still friends with every one of these boys.



The Muscatel Family in the 70's breaking ground on a new wing of the JCC.

Jennifer Muscatel

@jennifer_muscatel
206-661-0566

Molly McGuire

From: jen.kessler@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:07 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Please amend the Comprehensive Plan to allow the SJCC to grow

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

Our family has been living in Mercer Island since 2007 and we have been long-term members of the Stroum Jewish Community Center.

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial, so that the facility can serve my family and others for decades to come.

Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to give the JCC the flexibility to grow. This will ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kessler
7616 SE 40th St

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:48 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: SJCC Rezone

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Stephanie Castle <stephaniejb354@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 7:58 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: SJCC Rezone

Hello,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. My children both attended the Early Childhood School for preschool and now attend J Camp in the summers. We are not Jewish but have so loved and appreciated the warm, caring and inclusive community of staff and members who have welcomed us. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community in this way – as a community center and school – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to bless our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years and beyond.

Best wishes,

Stephanie Castle
4706 E Mercer Way

Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: Steve Chess <tripickle6@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 2:12 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: JCC Property

I have been a member of the JCC for many years. The JCC deserves a facility that is up to code. As a person with a long-term physical disability, many of the potential updates would be of great help to me and others. Please amend the comprehensive plan to designate the JCC property from single family to commercial use.

Thank you,
Stephen Chess

Molly McGuire

From: Steve Linkon <stevelinkon@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:32 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing to strongly support amending the Comprehensive Plan to reclassify the SJCC property from single-family to commercial use. My family has been part of the J community since 2009, when my daughter began preschool there. She attended for three years and also took swimming lessons at the J. I have observed children from the French American School frequently using the J's pool and gymnasium.

My family has participated in numerous events at the J, including carnivals, educational programs, lectures, and religious gatherings. The J has been a vital part of the Mercer Island community—serving as a community center for over 55 years. I urge you to update the Comprehensive Plan and land-use maps to accurately reflect this reality, ensuring that the J can continue to serve and thrive on Mercer Island for many more years. It is essential that the city align land-use policies with the property's long-standing community use so the J can operate without impediments. I recommend you approve this Comprehensive Plan amendment.

Steven K. Linkon
949-697-8889

Molly McGuire

From: Stuart Sulman <ssulman@kellersupply.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 9:53 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

- I am writing to urge your support in amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. The J has been serving the entire Mercer Island community (NOT ONLY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY BUT THE ENTIRE MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY) — as a community center — for over 55 years. My wife and I have been Mercer Island residents and members for all of those 55 years and we use it regularly. Now my Children and Grandchildren us it regularly. My hope is it will be here for another 55. I am not a land-use expert, but I know for certain the J has always served the community as a gathering space, an activity center, a school, and as a place for reflection and community — it has never been in single family use. As such, the city should align the comprehensive plan and land use maps with the longstanding use of this property. More importantly, it will allow the J to continue to serve the Mercer Island community without hindrance.
- I Recommend and urge your approval of this comprehensive plan amendment.

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Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 1:32 PM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Designation of SJCC Property

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Susan Szafir <susanoszafir@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 1:04 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Designation of SJCC Property

Dear Planning Commission, Council Members and Government Servants,

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. My family and I have been residents of Mercer Island for over 18 years and we've been members of the SJCC for almost the entire time we've lived on the island.

The SJCC has been so important to my family over the years. When we first moved to the Island from Austin, Texas in 2008, it is where we enrolled our daughters in pre-school, and it is where our family made lasting, foundational friendships that have provided us with tremendous joy and community throughout our time on Mercer Island.

As an empty nester, I now take Line Dancing lessons weekly, which I love and have at times relied on Aquafit classes when I've been unable to do weight bearing exercises. My husband and I will occasionally attend social or educational events or speakers which consistently enrich our lives. It is always nice to connect and see people we know when we visit the J. It is so familiar, that when we walk through the doors, it feels like a home away from home. We feel so fortunate to live in a community which has a vibrant and active JCC.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community - as a community center - for over 55 years. **Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Szafir

Molly McGuire

From: Suzanne Skinner <skinnersuzanne@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:04 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Please amend the MI Comp Plan as requested by the JCC

Dear Mercer Island government members:

I am joining the chorus of residents urging that the City amend the comp plan to change the JCC's property designation from single family to commercial.

This is a common sense change which reflects the current use and, moreover, will allow the JCC to undertake important and essential renovations of its aging facility.

The JCC is absolutely integral to the fabric of the Mercer Island community. It's membership is affordable and consequently, I have heard that one-third of MI residents belong. It provides essential services to families: after school programs, child care, summer camps, swimming lessons and so much more. It provides essential services to seniors: specialized, affordable mobility and strength classes, senior social time and health clinics and so much more. It opens its doors annually to a well-received, affordable film festival that is open to all: where else on MI can one see the latest international films open to all?

In short, it is essential that the City approve this comp plan change to keep the JCC able to play the key role it plays in the lives of thousands of MI residents.

And for heavens sakes, the City does not need any more single family residences. It needs community spaces to support the families that call MI home.

Suzanne Skinner
JCC member

Molly McGuire

From: Tara Koehler <taracarrasco@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Alison Van Gorp; Planning Commission; Deb Estrada
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

unds warm and authentic:

I value the J because it has truly been a home away from home for our family. My husband grew up attending preschool there, playing sports, and spending countless hours at the J. When we started our own family, it felt natural to continue that tradition. Both of our children attended the Early Childhood Education program full time and later participated in countless after-school activities, camps, sports, and programs.

Today, our children are in high school and college, but some of their closest friendships were formed at the JCC and remain some of the most meaningful relationships in their lives. The J has been so much more than a place to work out or take classes—it's been a community that has supported our family through every stage of life. Even now, we each continue to use the J in our own ways, whether it's exercising, taking classes, or simply feeling connected to a place that has meant so much to us over the years.

The JCC isn't just a community center to us—it's part of our family's story, and we're incredibly grateful for the sense of belonging, connection, and lifelong relationships it has fostered.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Sincerely,
Tara Koehler

Sent from my iPhone

Molly McGuire

From: Terry Azose <tlazose@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 7:44 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: In support of the proposed zoning designation from single-family to commercial,

I am in support of the proposed zoning designation from single-family to commercial, I firmly believe that this change is necessary and beneficial.

Reflecting on the history of the JCC, I recall its opening in the 1960s as a magnificent state-of-the-art building. As a high school student at the time, I was deeply impressed by its grandeur. Today, I am proud to say that my children and grandchildren have embarked on their preschool education at the JCC. It has been a nurturing, well-run, and inclusive program that has created cherished memories for my family.

As a 70-something member, I value the safety, welcoming atmosphere, the new friendships and renewed connections that have become integral to my daily activities at the JCC. From swimming to classes, the supportive staff consistently bring joy and encouragement to all members.

However, the building itself is in need of renovation. Despite the staff's efforts to patch up the broken structure, it remains outdated and in need of significant improvements. The zoning change would facilitate better traffic patterns and provide more opportunities for both young and old members of the community.

In conclusion, I strongly advocate for the zoning change to the commercial designation. It will undoubtedly enhance the JCC's functionality and ensure its continued relevance and support for the community.

Sincerely,
Terry Azose
(206) 450-0995 cell

Molly McGuire

From: Thellea Leveque <thellea@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2026 5:58 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Support for JCC facility update!!!

The JCC is a VITAL part of our community and the current infrastructure is truly old and outdated. If there really is a chance to turn it into the beautiful community space shown on the plans, I am ALL FOR IT!!!!!!!

I am not worried about my i90 access, I am not worried about neighbor noise or inconvenience, I am not worried about some kind of zoning interference. Just build the darn thing. The plan looks amazing and will be a huge win for our whole community. It will probably raise property values and bolster the public school satisfaction (with their before and after school programs for elementary age kids).



Thellea Leveque
9323 SE 43rd St
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Molly McGuire

From: tomacker1@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 2:46 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: JCC Planning Meeting

I'm writing to share my support for the JCC remodel. As a 50+ year resident of Mercer Island, both myself and my family, have used the facilities off and on throughout the years both as members and as benefactors of their services including the Special Need Adaptive Swimming Programs.

While there have been many concerns raised over the years, the latest plans I've seen seemed to address all the concerns that have been raised over the years including security, lighting, tree plantings, parking, etc. The only remaining concerns are what the final designs look like, will there be an impact on the adjacent neighborhoods, AND whether or not there is an impact to drivers visiting/departing from Mercer Island. The concerns on nextdoor pointed out there are only three ways to leave the island heading eastbound and one is an HOV only onramp which begs the question as to whether or not there will be traffic impacts around the EMW onramp.

If the city processes work as intended (Design Reviews/Planning Commission Reviews), I'm confident these concerns as well as any further questions and concerns will be resolved. This is based on my understanding there are no plans to materially change the use of the JCC or the number of people who would be visiting the JCC. For example, the JCC will not create a "convention center" that would increase the number of people coming to, and departing from, the facility.

In addition, there are other changes that are naturally reducing the traffic impacts. These include the departure of the French American School and the completion of the i-90 East Channel Bridge Rebar Replacement Project.

In summary, the JCC has been, and continues to be, a valuable part of the community that serves the needs of many. And, quite honestly, this remodel has been needed to happen for over 20 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Acker

Molly McGuire

From: Tony Frego <tony.frego@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 5:04 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: JCC Rezoning

Hello - I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. My son took swimming lessons for several years at the J. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years. I do not understand how high the change would allow the JCC to go, so I would want to request caution to not allow it to be oversized. From reading the city code, being close to an arterial, the JCC could be zoned to 7 stories. That doesn't feel right. Allowing the JCC to build to 2 or 3 stories seems appropriate for the space.

Tony Frego

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 9:09 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: SJCC Property Designation - Please support change to commercial property

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: TRACY SIGMON <tracy.sigmon@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:44 AM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: SJCC Property Designation - Please support change to commercial property

Hello:

I have been part of the SJCC community for over 50 years. I attended preschool and day camps, had my first job as a junior counselor at their day camps, then sent my own children to preschool there. They continued participating in activities like Dinky Dunkers and others and now, as adults, still come play pick-up basketball at the J. My husband and I use the facilities on a weekly basis to this day.

The J has been serving as a community hub for the entirety of my life (55+ years). While it's officially the "Jewish" community center, it serves all communities. I hear a multitude of languages as I walk down the halls. It's an critically important community space housed in a building that has outlasted its best self.

Please support the plan to amend the designation of the property from single family to commercial use. It's always been used as a commercial space and the zoning should reflect that so that this property can continue serving the greater Mercer Island and Seattle areas.

Thank you,
Tracy Sigmon
425.351.1332 (m)

Molly McGuire

From: Trea Diament <treadiament@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:53 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: I support the SJCC rezone request

Dear Mercer Island City Council,
I am writing in support of the SJCC rezone request. I am a neighbor of the SJCC (13 El Dorado Beach Club Drive, Mercer Island) and a member. The SJCC is a beloved MI institution. For too long (maybe a decade?) the SJCC rebuild has been mired in permitting issues. The result is a building that doesn't meet the standards of the community. Without complete and timely support from the Mercer Island City Council, this institution will no longer be able to provide the services that MI loves - summer camp, swim lessons, pre-school, etc. Please do not force our non profits off the Island. Without explicit support from the council, we will lose what makes MI a community.
Thank you for your consideration,
Trea Diament

Molly McGuire

From: Uri Bar-Joseph <uribarjoseph1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Cc: Karen Bar-Joseph
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

We've been members of the J since we moved to Mercer Island six years ago and have used the J's programming for over 15 years, while we lived in Seattle before moving to the Island. My wife's family have been a proud member of the J since 1990, and we plan for our kids and one day our grandkids to continue this tradition.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thank you for the consideration,
Uri Bar-Joseph

Molly McGuire

From: Urmil shah <urmilshah@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 3:57 PM
To: Deb Estrada
Subject: Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

- I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single family to commercial. I'm a member at J for15 years. We moved from Minnesota and new to town. Originally we are from India and JCC accepted us and we have made so many friends now. They accepted us without asking any questions and welcomed us. We attend so many classes and water aerobics that has improved our life. The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center – for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Thanks, Pallu

Molly McGuire

From: Wendy Kaufman <kaufmanwr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 6:05 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Cc: kaufmanwr@gmail.com
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

WE have been happily living on Mercer Island for more than 3 decades; and we have Been using the SJCC for most of that time. The "J" is a fantastic resource and addition To our community. But it needs and wants to create new facilities. I totally support that effort.

I urge you to support amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial to enable the J to create an even better SJCC.

Like so many Islanders we used the wonderful pre-school, after school programs (a tremendous resource for working parents), and summer camp. We continue to use their exercise facility, wonderful fitness classes and pool.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to allow it to more
effectively serve the Island community for many decades to come .

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Kaufman
206 300 6720

Molly McGuire

From: Wendy Rosen <rawendy@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 12:25 PM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: JCC Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Dear Mercer Island City Council Members and Planning Commission Members,

I'm writing to you as a lifelong Mercer Island resident who also raised our children on Mercer Island. We attended Mercer Island schools and have also been proud and involved lifelong members of the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC), starting with preschool.

Our family and so many fellow Mercer Islanders who we know have made countless lifelong friends at the SJCC.

I am writing to you today to ask that you *please support a Comprehensive Plan amendment, that would create a viable path forward for the SJCC to update the facility*.

I ask that you consider this for several reasons.

1. The SJCC is open to everyone. You do not need to be a member to come to the SJCC.
2. A bigger and better SJCC will benefit the entire Island.
3. Everyone is welcome at the SJCC, regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, or gender.
4. The current space is old and limited and there are many ongoing and costly maintenance issues.
5. The SJCC is such an important part of our community, and with a remodel it will be able to serve even more Mercer Island children, adults and seniors.

Thank you so much for your consideration and ongoing support for this beloved and critically important Mercer Island institution.

My warmest regards,
Wendy Rosen

Wendy Rosen
4140 Boulevard Pl
Mercer Island, WA. 98040
206-353-3208

Get Outlook for iOS

Molly McGuire

From: Zach Stroum <stroum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 11:48 AM
To: Planning Commission; Alison Van Gorp; Deb Estrada; Council
Subject: Please Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Members of the Planning Commission,

I am a third generation Stroum who grew up on Mercer Island and currently resides a bridge away in Lake Hills, Bellevue. Growing up at the JCC and being surrounded by Jewish culture seemed like a given as a child. Only as I grew older and became a parent myself did I realize how incredibly rare an organization and campus like the SJCC is.

The most common question I get when I suggest someone join is whether they must be Jewish to belong. My answer is simple: No, it's for everyone. When I visit, I see people of all backgrounds, faiths, orientations, and incomes sharing a safe space to relax, learn, exercise, or even take a break from parenting for just a moment. Right now my two daughters are at summer camp there (which they look forward to throughout the school year). This allows me to work full time to support my family and be present for them at the end of the day.

However, the current facility and its zoning make it difficult to maintain and expand the services it provides to the community. The preservation of Mercer Island's environment and character through zoning laws is entirely understandable. I also believe we can agree that the SJCC campus is not a single-family home. I also believe that a modernized, ADA-accessible campus (subject to the same land use regulations and public processes the rest of the island has followed) would benefit Mercer Island by attracting families and their business here. Thoughtful leadership by the Commission in this instance would result in a win for the community and the city, demonstrating to the region that Mercer Island is and will continue to be one of the best places to live and visit.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

-Zach Stroum

Molly McGuire

From: Andrea Larson
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:47 AM
To: Molly McGuire
Subject: FW: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

Comment on CPA25-002.

Thank you,

Andrea Larson, CMC
City Clerk
City of Mercer Island
206.275.7793 | mercerisland.gov

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From: Zivit Shechter Nissim <zivit_s@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 9:20 PM
To: Planning Commission <Planning.Commission@mercergov.org>; Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>; Deb Estrada <Deborah.Estrada@mercerisland.gov>; Council <council@mercergov.org>
Subject: Support Proposed Zoning Change for the SJCC

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I'm writing to urge your support to amend the Comprehensive Plan to change the designation of the SJCC property from single-family to commercial.

I first got to know the SJCC when we moved to the US and were looking for a preschool for our daughter. We found an amazing preschool but we also found a family at the J - where all our kids grew up (after school activities, summer camps, swim lessons etc), where we attend events and cultural gatherings, and where we all regularly exercise and swim.

The J has been serving the Mercer Island community – as a community center for all - for over 55 years. Please align the comprehensive plan and land use maps to reflect that reality and ensure the J can continue to serve our community and thrive on Mercer Island for the next 55 years.

Zivit Shechter-Nissim