

Robin Proebsting

From: Jim Gregson <jcgregson@psfinc.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Nicole Gaudette
Cc: cecelia gregson
Subject: Next Door Neighbor

I saw this and could not agree more!

Ms. Gaudette,

Over the past three years, I have become painfully aware of the consequences of my previous dereliction of duty as an MI citizen. I had no idea what the power people at City Hall were up to, and I'm sorry I was not a better citizen paying tireless close attention to city government and its commissions. I didn't realize how hard we had to work to have protected ourselves from our previous elected officials and their appointees. Frankly, we should never have to work that hard then or now to protect ourselves from City Hall. Now, I am paying attention. I am not alone. There are many hundreds of us who are now paying attention, and we are raising our voices before it's too late to stop the City from ruining our Town Center permanently.

We want retail. We want parking enough for all of us to use Town Center. Our Island bus system is useless to most of us. We do not want be forced to leave the Island to go to a drugstore, a book store, a restaurant or to use UPS. We fight terrible traffic to get home; we do not want to have to fight more horrid traffic to do our daily shopping because Town Center got ruined and we didn't stand up to stop it.

Bassett, Bertlin, Grauz and Julie Underwood may have had good intentions with color crayons on napkins, but it is time to listen to the professionals. They are your neighbors and they are offering professional help free of charge! They know other professionals; they are all bringing you educated advice which I urge you to heed. Ray Akers, Jim Eanes, Doug Cargill and several other professionals are stepping forward to help Evan Maxim, you and our Commissions get a very clear picture of the unintended consequences which will result from further residential development of town center. We need our city Planning employees to be operating in our best interest above all else. We need your help to be sure that is the case.

Please, hit the pause button until you understand the full implications and consequences of choosing housing over retail in the town center. The professionals are telling you that mixed residential and retail is a tested and failed model. Please, heed what they are telling you. If you choose to ignore the clarion call about mixed residential and retail, and if the professionals are right about it costing us our retail core, you will have done us all a tremendous disservice by ruining our Town Center forever. The era of color crayons and amateur hour needs to end. We are not Ballard. We don't desire to be Ballard. Please, hit pause now.

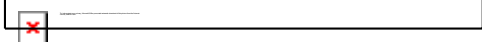
Mercer Island is an independent city in a large and growing metropolis. We should have decision making authority about our city. We want to protect our city and community from urban growth, that is why we moved here. Do not represent the intentions of the county over the will of the residents.

Best regards,

Jim Gregson

James C. Gregson, CEBS

Principal, Account Executive



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