From: Jim Harnisch
To: Lauren Anderson
Cc: "Susan Cook"; william.ellis2@comcast.net; rflapan@gmail.com
Subject: Velamoor fence variance petition
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 4:23:09 PM

Ms. Anderson
Assistant Planner
City of Mercer Island Development Services Group

The Velamoor new house construction is along the northeast border of our driveway which is shared with the Cook family who is our upland neighbor. The Velamoor's have filed a petition with the City for a variance to permit construction of a 6 foot fence along our driveway property line as well as along their border with West Mercer Way. We are concerned that a 6 foot high fence is completely out of character with the neighborhood and would establish an unfortunate precedent for other homes in the area. A feeling of a locked in corridor with diminished open space would be the result. No other homes in our area have resorted to this high fencing along West Mercer. The City's arborist can suggest excellent tall vegetation (such as soldier trees) as an alternative or as a supplement to a lower fence. My point is applicable to both the property line along our driveway as well as that along West Mercer Way.
We also request the City Arborist to provide specific guidance as to the location of fence posts along our mutual property line to avoid root damage to existing trees that already provide excellent shielding.

An added concern is potential reduced visibility looking north when we exit our driveway if a higher fence is constructed. During their 3-4 year construction vehicles have constantly impaired our visibility creating near accidents. Although not the same situation, the higher fence would still reduce visibility. I have reported this safety concern to our Police Department.

Both the Cook and Ellis families have discussed their concerns with us for the effect of a 6 foot fence along our driveway and how natural vegetation and/or trees would be an improved solution. We are all in agreement that the variance should not be granted. Please ask our arborist for her input.

Regards,

James P. Harnisch, M.D. FAAD
Kathleen Bayer Harnisch
6759 West Mercer Way
Mercer Island, WA 98040

N.B. Please acknowledge receipt of this communication