From:	Susan Cook
To:	Lauren Anderson
Subject:	File #DEV17-001
Date:	Monday, February 13, 2017 9:29:46 AM

Hello Lauren,

My name is Susan Cook and our driveway is adjacent to the south of the above property with a variance application for the new Velamoor home at 6753 West Mercer Way.

We would like to go on record as objecting to allowing the Velamoors to increase the height of their new gate and fences to 72" along West Mercer Way and along the NW corner of their property. The access along Eden Lane West is already very tight and 'claustrophobic' in feel. An extra tall fence would only make it feel more so. Visibility in the corner is also minimal as vehicles make the 90 degree corner to head south toward the westerly homes on Eden Lane. It already feels like a tunnel. I think this is particularly true since according to the plans I viewed from last summer, this fence in the NW corner is proposed to be **on** the property line, not setback in the least.

As for the gate and fencing along West Mercer Way, again, we object to allowing the height to be increased to 72." A 6 foot tall gate and fence would present a 'wall' along West Mercer which is out of character for the neighborhood. It is difficult to tell from the plans viewed last summer (which I believe are the official Approved plans), exactly where the fence and gate are to be located. The plans seem to indicate the fence would be on the property line. If that is the case there would be no ability to 'soften' the fence on the City right of way side of the fence.

Most of the 5 or 6' fences along this stretch of West Mercer are setback from the road & property lines and therefore do not give the feeling of driving along a wall. They have vegetation on the street side of the fence to screen the fencing and blend in with the character of not just this stretch of West Mercer, but of the perimeter drive around the island as a whole.

If I am misinterpreting the plans and the proposed fence is farther from the property line than I suspect, then perhaps the location of the proposed fence could be marked along current property and grading to demonstrate what such a fence would do to the visibility at the top of our driveway as we try to enter West Mercer. This project has taken a VERY long time. The visibility at the top of our driveway has been poor for at least two years (I think the project is now 3 or nearly 4 years old) and I am greatly looking forward to having it done and not feel like I'm going to get 'T-boned' every time I try to leave my driveway during construction hours. There have been many near misses with bicycles, cars and trucks. It's occasionally been terrifying. Occasionally, the workers have been willing to wave us on to West Mercer when it's clear but they weren't always available. I am unwilling to accept poor visibility to access West Mercer if a 6' fence causes permanent, decreased, visibility.

I am also concerned that if this variance is approved the property immediately to the north of the Velamoor property would also apply for such a variance and then we would have an even longer 'wall' with poor visibility accessing West Mercer from Eden Lane. It is unfortunate that all the natural screening was removed from this property to allow for the development of this home, but that was their choice, and now they find they don't have much privacy from West Mercer Way.

We encourage the city to deny this variance.

Thank you,

Susan and Jeffrey Cook