

February 28th, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the comments regarding DEV17-001 submitted by Doug and Mae Brado.

We apologize for any difficulty in reading the posted sign. In placing the sign, we explicitly followed the directions stated by the City. Having driven by the sign in both directions multiple times a day over the review period, we know that there were long segments of time during the day where there were no obstructions present. In fact, during the entire last week of review, very little work could be done on site secondary to the driveway being poured and, thus, few cars were parked at the site obstructing the sign. Furthermore, once we were alerted to concerns regarding visibility, we took action to place cones in front of the signage, attempting to prevent further obstruction by parked cars.

The hazardous conditions mentioned in the public comment by Mr. and Mrs. Brado regarding the speed of vehicles on West Mercer Way near our property is in fact one of the major motivators for our fence height deviation request. It is our hope that the higher fence and gate will help keep our small children safe as they play in our yard, discouraging accidental contact with traffic by either the children themselves or their toys.

We are very much aware of the issues exiting Eden Lane onto West Mercer Way as similar conditions exist while exiting our own driveway. In coming up with our landscaping plan, we were very conscious of the fence location and wanted to ensure easy and safe passage onto West Mercer Way going both directions. Consequently, our fence and gate has been placed westward enough from West Mercer Way that there is absolutely no line of site issues from either Eden Lane or the shared access drive immediately south of our property (please see attached pictures). In particular, from Eden Lane, our intended fence and gate is not visible at all, secondary to tall cedar trees location in between our home and our neighbor to the north.

Regarding the removed trees from the property, we would submit that prior to initiation of our project, we received approval from the City Arborist for their removal. We also have an approved mitigation plan to add back more viable trees and vegetation onto the property than existed prior to construction. We are also very conscious of potential issues with the fence posts and root structure and will make every effort to ensure no harm is caused for any portion of the intended fence and gate.

I have lived on Mercer Island for the better part of 35 years now. I grew on the south end of the Island, not far from our construction site. One of the major reasons I relocated

back to Mercer Island was for the overall character of the community. We are very much interested in keeping with the Island's character going forward. That being said, we believe that our intended fence and gate would not alter the character of the neighborhood or Island at all, as there are numerous similar fences and some gates all along West Mercer Way (please see attached pictures). In fact a similar sized fence and gate was recently approved by the city is currently being installed just three homes south of our property (please see attached pictures). In fact, similar sized fences already exist on Eden Lane itself already (please see attached pictures). With this being the case, we do not feel we would be altering the character of the neighborhood.

Driving around Mercer Island in general, there are countless similar fences and gates, and we do not feel our intended fence or gate would be any different from the others located on the Island and already approved. Therefore, we do not feel we would be setting any new precedent at all.

With regard to a potential fence at 1 Eden Lane, we would submit that any fence to be installed on that property (at this point purely speculative) would be subject to the same safety standards as all other fences on the Island would only be approved if those standards were met. I would also submit that a similar height fence already exists on the property immediately north of Eden Lane (please see attached pictures), and therefore precedent for such a fence already exists.

Ultimately, we do not feel our intended fence or gate would impact traffic negatively and, in fact, believe it would actually provide some additional safety and security for our family from the busy traffic on West Mercer Way. Just last week we had our third break-in at the construction site (see attached pictures). Fortunately, no one was harmed, no significant damage was done, and MIPD was instrumental in securing the site expediently and ensuring continued safety. We feel that our intended fence and gate would have protected us from such a break-in, or as mentioned previously, our children from the busy traffic on West Mercer Way.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if there are any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gautam R. Velamoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gautam R. Velamoor