

February 28th, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the comments regarding DEV17-001 submitted by Dr. Jim and Mrs. Kathleen Harnisch.

I have lived on Mercer Island for the better part of 35 years. I grew up on the south end, not far from our construction site. My family and I relocated back to Mercer Island, largely because of its character and community. It's something we are very much keen on preserving.

We do not believe our intended fence or gate would be out of character with the neighborhood or set a precedent for other homes, as there are countless similar fences and some gates all along West Mercer Way (see attached pictures). The most recent similar fence and gate project was approved by the City of Mercer Island in December, and is currently under construction just three homes south of our property (see attached pictures). There are, in fact, similar fences already on Eden Lane itself, one of which is located along the same shared driveway as our intended fence that Dr. Harnisch refers to in his comment (see attached pictures).

With regard to landscaping, we are very much intending on planting vegetation along our intended fence in all locations to help "soften" its appearance. These plantings will be located on our property along the intended southern fence. As Dr. Harnisch mentions in his comments, his plantings (many much taller than 6 feet) already help excellently shield him and our neighbors from our intended fence in that location and would therefore mitigate its visual impact to him and our other neighbors along that shared drive. Along West Mercer Way, we intended to plant vegetation in front of the fence to help reduce its visual impact from the road, as well. In addition, the fence and gate will be located on the downslope away from the road, reducing its visual height impact.

We are also very cognizant of the root structure related to the vegetation along our shared property line. We will make every effort to prevent root damage by fence posts in all locations of the fence and not just along that shared property line.

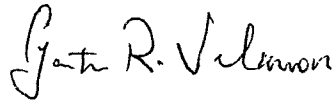
Traffic safety is very important to us, as well. Exiting our property onto West Mercer Way carries the same safety concerns that Dr. Harnisch mentions in his comment. Bearing this in mind, we intend to install the fence and gate in such a location that there would be no line of sight issues from any of the nearby drives including Eden Lane and Dr. Harnisch's shared driveway. As you can see from the attached pictures, safe entry onto West Mercer Way is not an issue, as our intended fence and gate is well west of West Mercer Way and actually behind any vehicle trying to enter the roadway. We would also submit that the vegetation already present at the top of Dr. Harnisch's shared driveway

(not on our property) is not only much taller and wider than our proposed fence and gate, but also much closer to West Mercer Way, creating a much bigger traffic impact.

Traffic safety and safety in general is the major motivator for our deviation request. It is our belief that a higher fence and gate will help keep our family and specifically our small children safe from the busy traffic on West Mercer Way. We also believe that a higher fence and gate would prevent future break-ins like the three we've had during the construction phase of our project, the last of which was just last week (please see attached pictures). Feeling safe at home, is something we feel strongly about. With our home being so close to the busy traffic along West Mercer Way, we believe a higher fence and gate will afford us increased safety and protection.

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