

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the comments regarding DEV17-001 submitted by Bernard and Emer Hensey.

Safe entry onto and exit from West Mercer Way is extremely important for us. We do not believe that our intended fence and gate will cause an obstruction to the view of the road onto West Mercer Way or create a hazard of any kind. No part of our fence or gate will be viewable from the top of Eden Lane as you look south (please see attached pictures depicting that view), as it is shielded by large cedar trees.

Safety is actually one of the most important reasons behind our desire for the higher fence, as well. Given our young children and their penchant for playing in the yard, we hope that the intended fence reduces the chance for coming into contact with West Mercer Way traffic. In addition, we believe the higher fence will help prevent the type of break-ins (please see attached pictures) we have had during the construction phase of our project and overall provide a better sense of safety for the family at home.

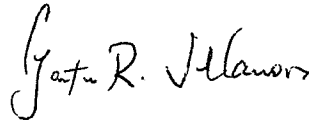
With regard to the concern that the fence is out of character for the area and lane, we would submit that there are numerous instances of such fences all along West Mercer Way and adjacent improved streets, many of which are less than half a mile from our property (see attached pictures). In fact, a fence of similar height is located immediately north of Eden Lane (see attached picture) and fences of similar height already exist on Eden Lane itself (see attached pictures). I believe, there is even a similar height fence located on the Hensey property. Most recently, a fence and gate of similar height and location has been approved just three homes south on West Mercer Way and is currently under construction (please see attached pictures). We believe that our intended fence would be in keeping with these already existing fences and gate, and therefore not be out of character at all.

I have lived on Mercer Island for the better part of 35 years. I grew up at the south end of the Island and returned here after my post graduate training to raise my family, largely because of what Mercer Island has to offer as a community. I can assure you that we hope our children are raised in a community much like the one in which I grew up. We honestly feel our fence and gate will not impact the neighborhood feel of Mercer Island at all. As I travel south on West Mercer Way from where we currently live to get onto the I-90 West freeway, there are countless fences (and a few gates) on West Mercer Way, many without vegetation in front of them and many much closer to the street that ours will be.

With regard for the fence being potentially overbearing, we are intending to plant vegetation in front of it all along its course on West Mercer Way, thereby "softening" its

appearance. We believe this would mitigate any chance of an “overbearing” appearance, even though numerous similar fences along West Mercer Way have no such vegetation. Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if there is any further information required.

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