

February 28th, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the comments regarding DEV17-001 submitted by Dave Smith-Bronstein.

I have lived on the Mercer Island for the better part of 35 years. I grew up on the south end of the Island, not far from our construction site. I chose to return here to raise my family so we could enjoy the Mercer Island community and greenery much like I did years ago. I have seen tremendous change in residential construction all over the Island and, in particular, along West Mercer Way. I believe it is to Mercer Island's benefit.

Our construction projects is well within code and we have been compliant with all building regulations thus far. All along West Mercer Way, there are homes of all different sizes and types, something we believe that adds to Mercer Island's diversity.

Most of the vegetation that was removed from our site before construction was either dead, dying, or thorn laden blackberry bushes, not conducive to a home landscape. As part of our landscaping plan and approved building permit, we are adding back more vegetation than we removed, including several large trees such as maples and cedars. It will be a much more inviting yard than present before.

Our most important reason for increasing the height of our fence and gate in the location requested is safety and security. During the construction phase of our project we've had three break-ins, the last of which was just last week (please see attached pictures). Fortunately, the home was not occupied, no one was hurt, and there was only minimal damage. MIPD was instrumental in securing the site expediently and making sure everything was safe.

We believe a higher fence and gate would have prevented these break-ins. In addition, as the home is on West Mercer Way, it is our hope that such a fence and gate will protect our small children from the busy traffic all along that portion of the roadway.

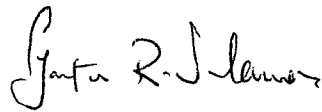
We do intend on having vegetation in front of the fence and have planned for this. The fence itself will also have gaps between the pickets and not be what I believe Mr. Smith-Bronstein refers to as "tight".

Overall, we believe our fence and gate will not alter the character of the neighborhood at all. As mentioned in the public comment by Mr. Smith-Bronstein, our mutual neighbor at 6845 West Mercer Way has a fence and will have a gate which has been approved by

the city, very similar to what we are proposing. In addition, as one drives along West Mercer Way, there are many homes with tall fences and some with gates, many of which are within a mile of our construction site (please see attached pictures). In fact, there are already six foot high fences located on Eden Lane itself. Given such fences and gates are already present in the neighborhood, we believe a similar gate and fence on our property would not alter its character.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gautam R. Velamoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gautam R. Velamoor