

Ryan Harriman

From: Lisa L <lisa@lackland.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 10:03 AM
To: Andrew Leon; Planning Commission
Subject: PERMIT DSR22-014

To Mr Leon and the Planning Commission:

I am a resident and homeowner of 66th Ave SE on Mercer Island. My family has roots on the island going back six decades.

I understand that the Baskin Robbins location on the island has been purchased and there are permit proposals to tear down this eatery to be replaced by a four-story building of residential units and a garage.

I oppose this proposal.

There is already a large 4 to 5 unit building going up via the Xin Hua development across from this space, with very little parking. It is already a travesty that the Xin Hua project was approved -- please do not do it again at the BR location.

I am against the loss of further retail in our downtown core. We must preserve and protect what little retail space there is left for the citizens to enjoy a walkable and enjoyable downtown center. If we continue to remove such places, there will be less traffic and desire for local residents to be in the downtown area to support what is there.

We cannot afford to create a downtown that only becomes tall residential buildings at imposing heights of 4 and 5 stories with no retail, especially with a large company like Riot Games coming to the island. Residents and those working for businesses in the core will need places to eat and shop to maintain the integrity of the area and the special character of the island. If we do not support our small businesses and eateries and insist that retail space must remain in this location, we will continue to see a loss of community, gathering destination and vibrancy. We do not need more high-density housing on the island. If I wanted to live in downtown Seattle, or Bellevue, I would move there. I choose to stay at my home on Mercer Island and want the quality of life to continue.

We need to create areas that preserve one and two-story buildings with associated retail, similar to downtown Kirkland, Edmonds, Issaquah and even Old Main in Bellevue. These cities understand the importance of small businesses and what it means to a community.

Very truly yours,
Lisa Lackland