

Andrew Leon

From: Paul Hoeffler <feibao@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 4:51 PM
To: Planning Commission; Andrew Leon
Subject: PERMIT DSR22-014

Mr Leon & Planning Commission

I am a resident of 2752 70th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040 and have lived here for many years and am actively involved in the community.

I noticed the Baskin Robbins location on the Island was purchased and there are now permit proposals stating the intention to tear down this eatery and replace it with a 4-story building of residential units and a garage.

I am very much 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 places such as the Baskin Robbins, there will be less desire for local residents to be in the downtown area to support what is there.

There is already a large 4 to 5 unit building going up across from there in the form of the Xin Hua development, which will have very little parking.

We should not strive to create a downtown that only becomes tall residential buildings at impossible 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 and maintain the integrity of the area. 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.

These types of buildings tend to cast shadows and make an area not as friendly for pedestrians and the community to meet and gather.

We need to create areas that preserve 1 and 2 story buildings similar to Kirkland, Edmonds, Issaquah and even Old Main in Bellevue. These cities understand the importance of small businesses and what it means to a community.

Thank you for your time,

Paul Hoeffler