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Subject: ezStorage in Sandy Spring

I am writing to urge you to reject the proposal by ezStorage to build a storage facility in Sandy Spring.

The Master Plan makes the preservation and enhancement of the area's rural character its top priority. An ezStorage facility in the area would certainly not be consistent with the rural character of Sandy Spring. All of ezStorage's other facilities in Montgomery County are located in industrial or heavy retail areas. Sandy Spring does not remotely resemble these areas in any way. Nor does the proposed ezStorage facility resemble the appearance, size or type of business it would be replacing (WH Rental).

This facility deviates from the Master Plan in other ways as well. A section of the Master Plan specifies that new development should "Provide for land use patterns and land uses that offer ample opportunities for social interaction and promote a strong sense of community through public and private cooperation. In no way would an ezStorage facility promote social interaction or a sense of community. It would be a self-serve facility, with people coming and going from areas near and far. The Master Plan goes on to say that new development should "Create pedestrian traffic with uses and designs that invite frequent visits by all members of the community." Instead this facility would invite automobile – not pedestrian – traffic, and would not encourage frequent visits by members of the community; a storage facility, by its very nature, encourages only occasional visits by its customers.

The above arguments don't even take into account the other problems that would be presented by a storage facility in this area: likely traffic problems, and the intrusion of traffic and 24/7 bright lighting on the nearby residential communities.

There are 4 ezStorage locations within 11 miles of Sandy Spring. All are in industrial or heavy retail areas. Sandy Spring and its surrounding communities do not need nor do we want this large storage facility.

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