

January 2, 2009

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: EZ Storage in Sandy Spring (Preliminary Plan No 120080410)

Dear Chairman Hanson,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Sandy Spring MD. I am **STRONGLY** opposed to an EZ Storage facility being allowed to build in the Sandy Spring/ Ashton area and I would like to encourage you to deny the application of this facility. There are many reasons that I am in opposition to this, including but not limited to:

*An EZ Storage Facility is not **AT ALL** consistent with the Sandy Spring-Ashton Master Plan or the Sandy Spring/Ashton Rural Village Overlay Zone. The size and scope alone of this facility are inconsistent with the concept of being a village or rural, both of which are key elements to this historic area. The Master Plan states: “the preservation and enhancement of the area’s rural character is top priority.” Furthermore, **ALL** of the other 8 EZ storage facilities in Montgomery County are in large industrial and retail areas, not adjacent to single family homes, and certainly not in historic village areas! The Master Plan also states: “exclusion of...typically large-scale uses that are inconsistent with traditional rural development patterns...” With 800 units and approximately 120,000 square feet, the proposed EZ Storage is certainly large scale and can in no way be argued to be consistent with traditional rural development!

*The proposed EZ Storage does not bring jobs to the area, nor does it bring anything that enhances the community. In fact, since there is no high density housing in the area, the vast majority of its customers will **NOT** be residents of the Ashton /Sandy Spring Community.

*It is my understanding that there are only approximately 10 acres of commercial property in the Sandy Spring area. The site for the proposed EZ storage is about 2.5 acres. That means that 25% of the commercial property in Sandy Spring will be dedicated to a use that brings nothing of value to the community!

*It will substantially increase traffic on 108, already quite congested in that area due to the traffic generated by Sherwood High School, which is directly adjacent to the proposed site.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Lewis
17602 Auburn Village Drive
Sandy Spring, MD 20860