



**TESTIMONY OF ARNOLD B. GORDON, PRESIDENT OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION and THE
NORBECK MEADOWS CIVIC ASSOCIATION BEFORE THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL, APRIL 21, 2009, IN
SUPPORT OF ZTA 09-01**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council:

The civic organizations I represent wish to express their support for the enactment of proposed Zoning Text Amendment 09-01 which will have the effect of adding to the list of presently prohibited uses certain additional commercial uses in the Sandy Spring/Ashton Rural Village Overlay Zone . These uses constitute impediments to the intentions of this community to preserve its nationally recognized historic character and to advance the charm of what the community hopes will become a quaint village main street on their portion of Route 108.

The shops and residents of this village desire their main street to become a neighborly, friendly, and vibrant place of business and community identification, and a future source of employment. Present plans to locate a patently ugly, monolithic, and unnecessary self storage facility to the commercially zoned area of this village will destroy a large part of this community's character. Further, this monstrosity will create virtually no employment and will create a dead zone for evening and weekend activity, deterring shopping and pedestrian activity especially in the evenings, and preventing a broader concept of community.

At present there are retailers, restaurants and even a jazz club/restaurant which are pioneering in making this village a new stimulating and exciting addition to our County's roster of attractive and interesting places.

We hope you will assist this by enacting the proposed ZTA.