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Sandy Spring, MD 20860
January 4, 2009

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subj: EZ Storage/Sandy Spring (preliminary plan no. 120080410)

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I cannot over state my opposition enough to the building of a proposed massive EZ Storage facility with several hundred storage units (900 units I heard) in a small historical downtown area.

Sandy Spring center is located on an already busy and small two-lane road. The proposed location, which virtually abuts the official boundaries of Sandy Spring center, will have all the appearance of falling within downtown and it will seriously detract from the historical charm of the area. Envision folks visiting the historical Sandy Spring Museum across the street from a very large storage facility. As a resident of Sandy Spring, this vision does not mesh with the area Master Plan.

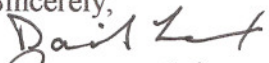

Most storage facilities are located beyond residential and town center areas where they do not disrupt small town life. Would you like to own one of the homes that could abut this very large facility and stare at it out your living room window? Is it fair to the community to put this facility amongst a rural downtown area and residential homes? The community voiced strong unwavering opposition to EZ Storage at the developer led awareness meetings, however the preliminary report glossed over this fact. Why? Additionally, no one from the planning commission was in attendance at the developer meetings to see and hear first hand how much the community does not want this facility. It does not mesh with the areas Master Plan.

The proposed facility will be very noticeable in Sandy Spring and located adjacent to residential homes, a museum and a high school. Did the areas planning guide envision a downtown Sandy Spring noted for a common storage facility that does not add jobs to the community and mainly services people from outside the community? The addition of a retail store to EZ Storage facility that sells packing material does not provide a service or noticeable jobs to the community. The U-Haul facility in Sandy Spring and at least 2 other stores in Olney sell packing material. The retail store idea is to force a reason to make the storage facility acceptable.

I feel strongly there are safety issues to pedestrians, especially high school students, and drivers on an already busy road that have not been adequately addressed in the preliminary approval report.

There are other building sites available for a "destination" storage facility and I strongly urge the planning commission to work with E-Z Storage to find a more suitable site. Please not a town center area.

I could go on, but rest assured the community does not want this facility. A planning commission approval for this facility is a big mistake with irreversible consequences.

Sincerely,



PS: My work prevents me from being in attendance at the 1 pm meeting on January 8th, maybe like others.