

Reject Wal-Mart Setback, Zoning Master Urges

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TEMPLE - TERRACE -- Plans to build a Wal-Mart Supercenter along Temple Terrace Highway met a roadblock Monday when a hearing master recommended that Hillsborough County deny the company's rezoning application.

In August, Wal-Mart representatives applied to have a 34.9-acre parcel of land between Harney Road and Temple Terrace Highway and west of Davis Road rezoned to allow for a 216,316-square-foot store. If the deal is approved, the company hopes to buy the land from the Doris C. Harvey Trust, which has a tree farm on the property.

The application was reviewed at an Oct. 17 hearing that drew praise and criticism from residents and county planners. Among those who attended were Temple Terrace Mayor Joe Affronti and Councilwoman Glenda Venable, who said they spoke out against the store as private citizens.

On Monday, Affronti said he was pleased with the hearing master's recommendation and that he hopes county commissioners will follow suit. The commissioners will consider the application Dec. 13. Those wishing to argue their case at the commission meeting have until Nov. 17 to file a request.

In recommending denial of Wal-Mart's application, the hearing master determined that the rezoning request is inconsistent with the Future of Hillsborough Comprehensive Plan. Wal-Mart officials could not be reached for comment.