

## ***Wal-Mart Pulls Temple Terrace Plan***

By CANDACE J. SAMOLINSKI [csamolinski@tampatrib.com](mailto:csamolinski@tampatrib.com)

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TEMPLE TERRACE - Wal-Mart has withdrawn a rezoning application that could have allowed a store to be built along Temple Terrace Highway.

However, the company said Tuesday that it will continue its quest to build the Wal-Mart Supercenter.

"By withdrawing the application, that doesn't mean it's been tabled," said Eric Brewer, a spokesman for Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart. "I think the thing we need to do is strengthen the application."

The Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission and a hearing master recommended denial of the request to rezone the 34.9-acre site between Temple Terrace Highway and Harney Road near Davis Road, citing inconsistencies with the county's master plan. County commissioners were to have considered the application during a hearing Jan. 24.

"We would like to have the support of county departments when we go forward with a new application," Brewer said.

As news of the application withdrawal reached store opponents, it resulted in e-mail declaring "Victory." On the other side, residents and business owners who wanted the store lamented the decision.

Colin Fiske, with Wal-Mart Alliance for Reform Now, and Grant Rimbey, president of Citizens for the Revitalization of Temple Terrace, jointly organized residents to fight the store's construction. They vowed to continue fighting if another bid is made.

"We opposed the Wal-Mart because it's just more unplanned growth or sprawl. It even violated Hillsborough Counties citizen-inspired comprehensive plan, that's why they wanted it re-zoned," Rimbey wrote in an e-mail. "Some folks refer to this type of development as 'free market.' I would more accurately label it unplanned, intellectually lazy, and the opposite of community-building."

Fiske said he hopes county officials will continue to oppose the store.

"I think the residents were really concerned about it and thought it was the wrong place for Wal-Mart. Certainly, the planning commission and the hearing master's recommendation for denial supported that," he said.

However, Donna Arsenault, owner of Republic Telecom, about three miles from the proposed store, said she anticipated the shopping convenience and added jobs Wal-Mart would bring.

"I saw it as a win-win for everyone," she said.

## **Wal-Mart bumped from Temple Terrace again**

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For the second time in eight years, it looks as if [Wal-Mart](#) executives will have to regroup after trying to open a location near Temple Terrace, north of Tampa. Chain officials have withdrawn their plans to build a 220,000-square-foot "supercenter" on Temple Terrace Highway, just outside the city, confirmed Eric Brewer, a Florida spokesman for Wal-Mart.

However, Wal-Mart plans on working to "strengthen the application," which means they could once again be going in front of Hillsborough County officials to get a store built, he said.

This isn't the first time Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) has struggled to get a store built.

Back in 1997, residents successfully staved off attempts to have a Wal-Mart built on 23 acres on Fowler Avenue and Morris Bridge Road. This time, however, Wal-Mart chose not to build inside the city limits, and instead on 35 acres in unincorporated Hillsborough County.

In the meantime, residents wanting to shop at Wal-Mart will have to choose between its New Tampa location on Bruce B. Downs Boulevard near the Pasco County line, or on Fletcher Avenue near the [University Community Hospital](#).