

February 10, 2024

Shelbyville Board of Zoning Appeals  
City Hall  
44 W Washington Street  
Shelbyville, IN 46176

Dear Board Members,

We are writing as concerned residents of Twin Lakes regarding the development of a Dollar General in our neighborhood. There are multiple items of concern including traffic, safety, cleanliness, and long term environmental impacts.

Dollar Generals and other chain dollar stores are often built in locations that do not have roads designed to accommodate traffic volume or support the weight of delivery trucks. Many communities have denied requests of this kind because of the traffic volume and the potential dangers associated. Our neighborhood is vibrant and residents spend time walking, running, biking, etc. outside. With the current proposition, the entrance to the Dollar General would be within the Twin Lakes neighborhood. The increased traffic poses a danger to those living in and enjoying the neighborhood. This location does not serve the best interests of the residents of Twin Lakes or the success of the Dollar General.

Due to the focus on minimizing costs for Dollar General stores, there is often a failure to invest in adequate security. The lack of security and high volume of cash makes Dollar General stores easy targets for crime. Officers from across the country have been quoted referring to Dollar General stores as “stop and robs” and “robbery magnets” due to the frequency of robberies. A 2022 study found that Dollar Generals and similar stores are more likely than any other type of store to be associated with robberies, vandalism, and violent crimes.

In addition to the above safety concerns, Dollar Generals have a history of safety violations with implications both inside and outside of the store. A 2021 press release from the Department of Labor stated that Dollar General had been fined \$3.3 million since 2016. Among the many violations include sanitation. As residents of Shelbyville, we currently have two other Dollar General stores and are familiar with the visible sanitation issues outside of these stores. We, and many other members of Twin Lakes, are concerned about the trash build up, lingering carts, and vandalism that has come to be associated with Dollar General stores.

Lastly, Dollar General stores have been cited numerous times for flooding, erosion, and water pollution due to inadequate infrastructure to manage stormwater. We are concerned that if a Dollar General is built in Twin Lakes, we will be subject to the long history of poor infrastructure and environmental impact of Dollar General stores. Additionally, we have invested a significant amount

of time and money into our home in Twin Lakes. The building of a Dollar General could have negative environmental impacts, but it will certainly have negative impacts on the values of our homes and our satisfaction as Shelbyville residents.

We appreciate your time in considering our concerns.

Kind regards,  
Douglas and Taylor Sant

1318 Bontrager Lane  
Shelbyville, IN 46176

#### Sources

- Lindsay Clein, “‘Not in My Backyard.’ Salisbury Residents Protest Dollar General Store,” Fox46, February 24, 2022.
- “OSHA Cites Beverly Hills’ Dollar Tree for Exposing Workers to Safety Hazards,” US Department of Labor, April 29, 2021.
- Keith Edwards, “Baldwin Dollar General cited by OSHA, facing more than \$400,000 in fines,” WQOW News 18, June 6, 2022.
- “History of Violations: Dollar General Continues to Put Workers at Risk; Company Faces \$321K in Penalties After Recent Alabama Inspection,” US Department of Labor, December 13, 2021.