Print

Planning Commission Comments - November 16, 2026 - Submission #155266

Date Submitted: 11/4/2026

Comments completed in the form below will be submitted into the record for the November 16, 2026 meeting of the Hall County Planning Commission.

First Name*

Edward

Last Name*

Sutphin

Address1*

6380 Tuggle Dr

Address2

City*

Buford

State*

GA

Zip*

30518

Zoning Item for Comment*

6337 Lanier Islands Parkway, 6330 & 6450 Old Lanier Islands Drive, and portion of Old Lanier Island Drive right-of-way

Select from the list below which zoning item you would like to register a comment on. Items are listed in the order in which they appear on the agenda.

Your Comments*

Dear Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed expansion of Atlanta Marine. As a neighboring property owner and community member, I believe the Commission should carefully evaluate the company's existing property maintenance practices before approving any additional expansion.

The property's current condition raises several concerns about upkeep, safety, and its impact on surrounding neighborhoods. Photographs of the site show numerous examples of deferred maintenance and poor property management that do not reflect the standards residents expect from businesses operating within our community.

One photograph shows a section of fencing that has collapsed and is leaning significantly downhill along the property boundary. The damaged fence appears to have been in this condition long enough for vegetation to grow through and around it. Fencing serves an important purpose in defining property boundaries, screening commercial activities, and maintaining an orderly appearance. The failure to repair such a visible structural element suggests a lack of attention to routine maintenance and property stewardship.

Another photograph shows a large dead or severely deteriorated tree leaning toward the property and adjacent roadway. The tree is covered in vines and appears unstable, creating potential safety concerns for motorists, pedestrians, neighboring properties, and utility infrastructure. Dead and fallen trees should be promptly removed, particularly when they are located near roads and commercial entrances. The continued presence of this obvious hazard raises questions about how future expansion areas would be maintained.

Additional photographs show stacks of pallets, large storage crates, construction debris, and miscellaneous materials stored in open view near the perimeter of the property. While commercial operations often require outdoor storage, the accumulation of pallets and crates creates an appearance of disorder and industrial clutter that is inconsistent with the expectations of many nearby residents. Unscreened outdoor storage can negatively affect community aesthetics and may contribute to concerns about debris, pests, and overall property management.

These issues are important because expansion should not simply be about increasing the size of a business. Expansion should also demonstrate a commitment to responsible operation, proper maintenance, and respect for neighboring properties. Before additional acreage, facilities, or operational capacity are approved, the Commission should consider whether the applicant has demonstrated the ability and willingness to properly maintain its existing property.

Residents expect neighboring businesses to:

Maintain their properties in a clean, orderly, and professional manner.
Promptly repair damaged fences, structures, and site improvements.
Remove dead, fallen, or hazardous trees and vegetation.
Properly screen outdoor storage areas from public view and adjoining properties.
Control debris and clutter so that commercial operations do not create visual blight.
Protect property values and contribute positively to the character of the surrounding area.
Demonstrate strong stewardship of the land before seeking additional development rights.

Many residents support local businesses and recognize the economic value they bring to Hall County. However, expansion should be accompanied by higher standards of property maintenance and accountability. The existing conditions visible on the property suggest that improvements should be made before additional expansion requests are approved.

I respectfully ask the Planning and Zoning Commission to carefully consider these concerns and require Atlanta Marine to address current maintenance deficiencies, improve site appearance, repair damaged infrastructure, remove hazards, and implement appropriate screening and property management measures before granting any future expansion approvals.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Hall County.

Ed Sutphin
6380 Tuggle Dr

Buford, GA 30518
[redacted]
Please write your comments in the box above.

File Upload

Merritts Drive.Old Lake Lainer PKWY.jpg

If you have files, such as photos, videos or text documents to include with your comments, upload them in the box above.

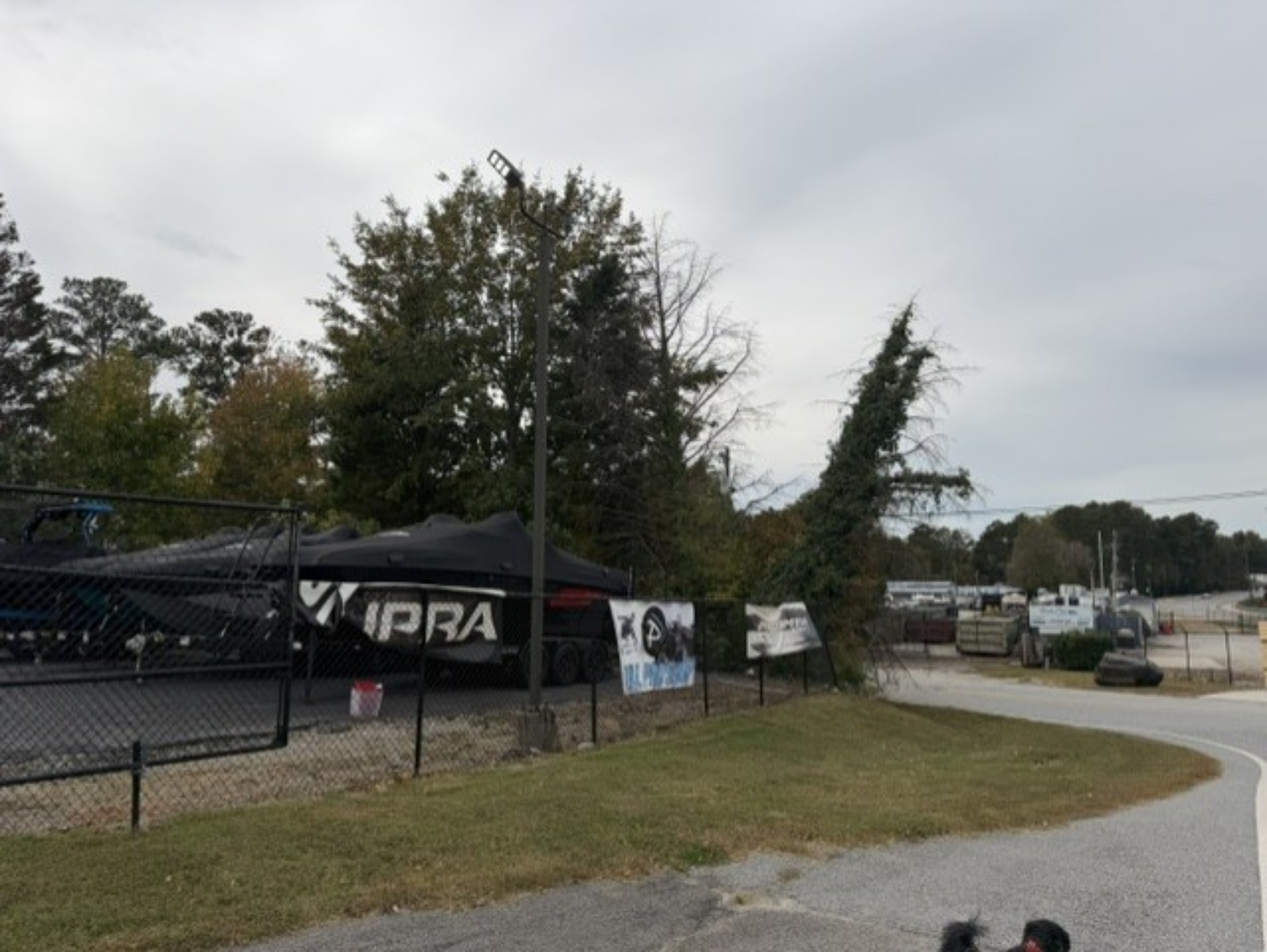
Would you like follow-up communication?

[redacted]

Please leave an email address and/or phone number if you would like a Hall County staff member to follow-up with you.






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BOATS



