



## **POLICY STATEMENT**

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### **Proposed ATV Track Threatens Farmland Preservation Area**

The quaint and quiet little country store in Flemington may have a very noisy neighbor soon if a proposed ATV racetrack is approved by the Marion County Commission.

Blitch Plantation, LTD and International Property Services, the owners of about 240 acres located at the intersection of Hwy 329 and Hwy 318 in the Farmland Preservation Area, is proposing an ATV racetrack, an ATV sales and service station, a convenience store, 40 RV parking spaces, and the ability to hold other events such as weddings and paintball games.

About 5 acres of the property already allows for limited commercial use as part of an existing Rural Activity Center (RAC), but the owner wants to increase the RAC land use designation on about 18 acres of the 40-acre parcel and add a 200-acre ATV racetrack.

The RAC designation is intended to promote mixed and commercial uses to reduce the need for vehicular trips to the urban area in order to meet the “daily needs” of people living in the area. In addition to increasing the RAC by 13 acres, the applicant has submitted a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow for the expanded uses for the RV park and facilities.

These proposed activities are not intended for a Rural Activity Center and the SUP is not compatible with the surrounding area. The SUP application does not meet the RAC designation of meeting resident’s daily needs with proposed uses like RV parking, event facilities, ATV racetrack, ATV sales and service facilities, and paintball events.

As the surrounding properties have a Rural Land use and A-1 zoning designation, and are located within the Farmland Preservation Area, this Special Use Permit would corrupt the integrity of the neighborhood, and should be denied by the Marion County Commission.

The county’s Farmland Preservation Area must be respected and protected from incompatible uses and recreational activities.

Horse Farms Forever opposes the Special Use Permit to allow a noisy and inappropriate ATV racetrack in the heart of the Flemington community and Farmland Preservation Area.

Horse Farms Forever is located in Ocala, FL.

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