



## News > Metro Aurora

### **Aurora developer impact fee pulled from this year's ballot**

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**AURORA** | Backers of a proposal that would increase fees for developers in the city have announced that they will stop their efforts to get the issue on the ballot this fall, citing concerns about potential challenges to the legislation.

Aurora residents Duane Senn and Arnie Schultz said this week that they are abandoning their efforts get a proposal on the city ballot that would raise Aurora's development impact fee from its current sum of \$1,204 to \$4,041.

The organizers of the citizen initiative made the announcement following a judge's dismissal last week of a proposed ballot initiative that would have forced police to tow vehicles driven by unlicensed drivers. The ruling stemmed from the fact that the full text of the initiative was not included on petitions for the ballot, rendering signatures invalid.

Senn and Schultz said that similar protests could be brought against more than 800 signatures collected on petitions circulated for the fee increase measure before July 5.

"After we had heard about the impound issue being challenged and the challenge being upheld, we met with the city attorney's office," Schultz said. "Rather than go through the process and have the city pay for an attorney, we decided to call it the end for this year."

Schultz added that they would continue looking at the proposal for next year's ballot.

"We'll regroup, and we'll be back. About 80 percent of the people we spoke to were willing to sign the petition," Schultz said.

In a letter addressed to petition supporters, Senn cited the failure of the towing measure as a prime factor in his decision to pull the fee increase ordinance.

"Our petition drive to amend the capital impact fee died an inglorious death by legal technicality," Senn said in the letter. "There is no assurance (the signatures) would be accepted."

According to Julie Heckman from the city attorney's office, supporters would have needed to submit 5,278 signatures to get the measure on the ballot. According to Senn's estimates, supporters of the measure had gathered around 4,000 signatures, 800 of which could have

been challenged.

Schultz said supporters of the proposed measure would formally announce their intentions to the Aurora City Council during its meeting on Aug. 24.

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