

## Hiller's suggestion to suspend Collier impact fees shot down

By [www.naplesnews.com](http://www.naplesnews.com)

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Collier Commissioner Georgia Hiller called this afternoon for a moratorium on charging developers impact fees to pay for growth.

The suggestion, roundly rejected by other commissioners, came during a related vote to add new categories of development to the county's impact fee law.

Commissioners said the county needed to keep charging impact fees, which pay for items like roads and parks, to encourage good growth and keep property taxes low.

Hiller said the county could afford to stop charging impact fees as a way to incentivize economic development.

"A moratorium certainly wouldn't hurt us," Hiller said.

Hiller's questions prompted a brief but terse exchange among commissioners about how much work individual commissioners could ask county staff members to undertake to answer their questions before meetings.

"I see real problems here," Commissioner Jim Coletta said. "We're wasting a lot of staff time and resources to satisfy one person (referring to Hiller)."

Coletta and commissioners Fred Coyle and Donna Fiala asked County Attorney Jeff Klatzkow to draw up rules about county staff members spending time on individual commissioners' questions.

Commissioner Tom Henning called such rules illegal and said he would "challenge it."

Hiller said she would continue to ask for whatever information she needs to make informed decisions.

"It's my right as a matter of law and you won't stop me," Hiller said.



© 2011 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online