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OPINION Reader Views

Affordable-housing fees

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Regarding the article "City Considers New Fee to Boost Affordable-Housing Options" published in Wednesday's paper: First, if the state did not cap and then "reappropriate" the money out of the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund, we would not be having this conversation.

The Sadowski fund is collected solely for the use of placing qualified individuals into affordable housing. The fact that we, the people who send this money to Tallahassee, continue to allow this to happen is unfortunate, to say the least. What's worse is the legislators taking the money year after year.

Second, charging local businesses for affordable housing is ridiculous. Essentially, what we are saying to new business is, "Thanks for bringing jobs into a faltering economy; now build us housing -- which, by the way, we also charge more fees toward."

Has anyone taken a look at what the linkage-fee proposal means for economic development? There is no question that this fee will drive away new business, and hinder the development of local small businesses. The linkage-fee proposal is surprising coming from Orlando, which, in 2005, won the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Robert L. Woodson Jr. award for its reduction of regulatory barriers for affordable housing.

Now, just three short years later, we find that the city wants to institute more fees for affordable housing, but pass them on to the business sector. This is simply a bad idea. I urge the community's leaders to join me in rejecting this proposal.

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