



Larry
TAYLOR FUNERAL
 and Cremation Services
*Now You Don't Have
 To Choose Between
 Service & Price*



941-833-0600
www.ltaylorfuneral.com

05/18/06

Builders to learn about impact fees

Public interest group raises issues

NORTH PORT -- Valerie Fernandez knows an unlawful impact fee when she sees one.

Fernandez, a senior attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation, a public interest group opposed to excessive government, said that the "road rehabilitation fee" recently adopted by the North Port city commission looks like an illegal fee imposed against builders.

Fernandez will speak tonight to the North Port Contractors Association. NPCA's members are mostly opposed to the road rehabilitation fee, which would cost builders \$1.25 per square foot for new home construction.

The money collected from this assessment would go toward restoring North Port's roads to their original condition -- that is, the condition they were in when first built in the 1960s.

In adopting this new fee, the commissioners said it was necessary because construction vehicles have torn up the streets.

Fernandez, however, said the fee illegally requires new construction to pay for years of neglect.

"City residents should have been paying to maintain these roads for the past 40 years," she said. "Those roads are affected by more than just construction trucks. Everyday vehicular traffic such as cars, delivery vans and the like have contributed to the roads' condition."

"If the fee is directly related to impacts associated with new construction, it is an 'impact fee,' and may only be assessed to address things needed solely because of the new building," she said.


Thus, Fernandez explained, if a new school is needed for a new development, or the increased population requires a road to be widened, those costs can be funded by impact fees. But such money cannot be applied to ordinary maintenance costs.

The NPCA will meet at 5:30 p.m. tonight at The Family Table Restaurant. This meeting is open to the public.

You can e-mail Susan Hoffman at shoffman@sun-herald.com.

By SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

North Port Assistant Editor

Sunline  © 2006 All rights reserved.
Your Local Internet Service Provider
A division of Sun Coast Media Group Inc.
Publishers of the Sun newspapers.