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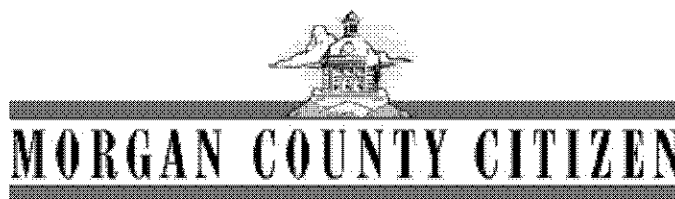
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- Yes, the random drug testing program gives students a reason to refuse drugs.
- No, if they're going to use drugs, they're going to use drugs.



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**Impact fee exemption policy set**Submitted by editor on Fri, 06/12/2009 - 18:25. [Top Stories](#)

By Tara DeRock Mahoney  
Senior Staff Writer

Madison City Council members unanimously approved last Monday a document outlining potential exemptions to its new impact fee policy.

The policy is meant to allow council members some leeway in assessing impact fees-fees paid by developers as pro-rata shares of future public infrastructure projects-and waiving those fees when a project that benefits the public at large presents itself.

"Exemptions are by their nature extraordinary," said Bill Ross, Sr., a consultant who helped the city to craft its new impact fee ordinance.

The short policy document adopted Monday outlines four criteria by which a project may be evaluated when determining whether waivers are warranted.

The first criteria involves the use of the proposed development; some or all fees could be waived for the expansion or construction of national or regional corporate office facilities, colleges, or industries primarily involved in research, assembly, manufacturing, or distribution.

The second criteria involves the investment level of the proposed development; council can consider the total amount of new capital investment in land, bricks and mortar, or equipment when determining whether impact fees can be adjusted.

The third criteria is related to the annual economic impact; the council can consider total wages and local purchases and expenditures of the new development and the total economic impact of the development on the community.

Finally, the council can consider job creation as a factor in potentially waiving some or all impact fees.

An important part of the waiver process is the understanding that any fees waived must be funded by the city and apportioned to the appropriate funds. In other words, if the city grants an impact fee exemption worth \$25,000 to a large corporation locating in Madison, the city must fund that \$25,000 in lost impact fees for specific projects through other revenue sources.

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