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# **Raleigh Impact Fees Increasing?**



(02/06/06 -- RALEIGH) - Raleigh has some of the Triangle's lowest impact fees, but a new report suggests they could skyrocket.

Impact fees, the costs developers have to pay the city in order to build new homes and businesses, have not changed in Raleigh since 1987. The Raleigh City Council is meeting Tuesday to discuss changing that.

A new report says Raleigh's development fees remain very low relative to cities in the rest of the state and country and should be increased. Developers pay \$682 for each home the build in Raleigh, the report says. In Cary, they pay \$2,593 per home. In Durham, the fees total \$1,155.

The report suggests that Raleigh's fees should increase to \$3,404. It is a proposal the Homebuilders

Association of Raleigh-Wake County strongly opposes.



"An impact fee of \$3,404 is extremely excessive," said the association's Tim Minton. "I think what we would see is builders looking at other places to build."

Mayor Charles Meeker says he would like to see a considerable increase.

"The fees have stayed the same, but the cost of homes has doubled," he said. "It's time that the development community pay a somewhat larger share of the cost of growth."

The City Council would have to approve any hike, and members are split on this issue.



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