

**Statement from Councilmember Jeff Oravits
April 3, 2014**

If you add to the cost of housing does it make housing MORE AFFORDABLE or LESS AFFORDABLE?

This is the question I posed to my colleagues Tuesday night regarding a proposal to increase impact fees that are paid on new homes in Flagstaff.

I argued that the current impact fees that were enacted in 2008 should be phased out. Flagstaff grew and thrived without these fees for over a hundred years. These fees were enacted during the housing bubble out of concern of rampant growth and that bubble has since popped.

Adding to the cost of housing does not begin to solve Flagstaff's affordability issues. Since getting on Council I've consistently argued against increased fees and costs associated with construction and will continue to do so.

A decision on the impact fees will be made in the coming weeks.

The statement from Mr. Oravits originally appeared on his Facebook page.