

were wired back that way. Only the ones at the City Center do we control."

Bastian said he wondered if

Greg Kisela, newly hired city manager in-waiting, apparently is moving more than his family. He's looking for a place in town

A woman bitten by a venomous snake while working at the Reptile Discovery Center near DeLand is striking back by suing the business.

Abreu was at one time Barden's girlfriend, according to a 2009 News-Journal story. The story also described her

property owners in the vicinity constituted a hazard to employees and members of the public utilizing said cage."

Abreu suffered "pain and

Forum set on issues facing

The Daytona Beach News-Journal

LOCAL

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New Smyrna extends waiver of some impact fees

By RICHARD CONN
STAFF WRITER

NEW SMYRNA BEACH — An attorney who represents the proprietors of commercial projects now in the city's pipeline is enthusiastic about a decision made to extend the suspension of some impact fees for new construction.

"What it does is it sends a message that the city is doing everything they can to promote economic development and the creation of jobs," said Glen Storch, who is based in Daytona Beach. "And the reduction of impact fees is one of the things that tells a job producer that the town, or the area, really wants to have a partnership with them to make this happen."

City commissioners last week voted to extend the suspension of both transportation and police and fire impact fees another year for all non-residential construction. To qualify for the waiver, a building permit for a project must be issued by Dec. 31, 2013, and construction must be completed by Dec. 31, 2014.

The commission last voted to institute the moratorium on charges for commercial building in 2011 in an effort to spur economic development.

"The decision was made here by the commission and the (Economic Development Advisory Board) that where we needed the incentives was more the job creation and the commercial side of the house — not the residential

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side," Brangaccio said. "New Smyrna has done very well, quite frankly, in terms of continuing to issue single-family (residential) permits."

According to a document from the city, eight businesses received waivers from impact fees over the past two years. The biggest beneficiary was the Hampton Inn on Flagler Avenue, which would have been charged \$33,089 in transportation impact fees and a combined \$85,817 for both police and fire impact fees.

In total, the city has waived \$196,827 in transportation impact fees and \$164,818 in police and fire fees during the past two years.

"What this also does is encourage construction faster than it would normally take place," Storch said. "What we're now going to be seeing are some of these projects that are in the pipeline working harder to get done faster."

As an example, Storch said the

continued suspension of fees could speed up the building of the new Mullinax Ford dealership slated for the north side of State Road 44, east of Colony Park and west of Jungle Road. The auto dealer, which will be moving from its current location on U.S. 1, plans to build a 23,000-square-foot dealership and 6,300-square-foot service station. Storch represented the Mullinax brothers when the Planning and Zoning Board approved a site plan for the project in November and said construction could begin in the next 60 days.

"This decision will probably help them to push this thing along quicker," Storch said.

Brangaccio said the city has

"more anecdotal information than anything" on the influence the initial decision to suspend fees related to commercial construction had on stimulating development.

Vice-Mayor Jack Grasty said the continued moratorium is needed while the area is still in the midst of an economic downturn.

"We know eventually it will come back and the impact fees will be reinstated," Grasty said. "But during the meantime, while we're still on this downturn, people can still build and save money here in New Smyrna."

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Darkened streetlights

DCE Police