



[» Home](#) | [» Browse Publications](#) | [» Digg It!](#) | [» Add to del.icio.us](#)

SEARCH



What's on AccessMyLibrary?

29,962,581 articles in the following categories:

[Arts](#), [Business](#), [Consumer News](#), [Culture & Society](#), [Education](#), [Government](#), [Personal Interest](#), [Health](#), [News](#), [Science & Technology](#)

Ads by Google

[Arts Degree School](#)
A Leader in Online Creative Arts Education - Art Institute Online.
www.aionline.edu

[Phlebotomy Schools](#)
Request Information from Phlebotomy Schools in Your Area!
www.collegebound.net

[Find The Right School](#)
Using this comprehensive guide to accredited schools and more.
www.FindTheRightSchool.com

[PhD Programs Online](#)
Request Info From Distance Colleges Earn Your PhD Online. Learn How.
www.eLearners.com

[Doctorate of Business](#)
Paris, New York, Tokyo, Shanghai Fully accredited, e-learning option
www.ism.edu

[AccessMyLibrary](#) » [Browse](#) » [S](#) » [South Florida Sun-Sentinel \(Fort Lauderdale, FL\)](#)

Critics attack Davie plan to charge fees to drivers who cause crashes.

Source: South Florida Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
Publication Date: 20-JUN-07

Ads by Google

[Condo Davie FL](#) Find all Davie, FL homes for sale. Maps, MLS & more.

[Orlando Personal Injury](#) Get The Legal Help You Deserve Now! Exceptional Service, Free Consult.

[Florida Auto Insurance](#) Looking For: Florida Auto Insurance Compare 5 Results at a Free Site

[Apartments in Davie FL](#) Free Apartment Search at Rent.com. Report Your Lease To Us & Get \$100!

[Print this article](#)

Critics attack Davie plan to charge fees to drivers who cause crashes.

Byline: Susannah Bryan

Jun. 20--DAVIE -- A proposed town law that would impose a service fee on drivers who cause accidents is not exactly winning kudos.

"No one has called to compliment me on the idea," Mayor Tom Truex said Tuesday, noting he has only heard from people critical of the plan.

The new ordinance, which won initial approval earlier this month, would charge at-fault drivers for police and fire services at crashes on interstate highways and state and county roads. Under the plan, Davie residents whose insurance companies refuse to pay the claim would not be charged the fee. Out-of-towners would get a bill if their insurance company declines to pay.

The measure, which would generate an estimated \$750,000 a year, won initial approval June 6 in a 3-1 vote. The council is expected to revisit the issue on July 18.

Weston resident Ed Radosh predicted escalating hostilities between municipalities should the measure pass. "I think it's going to start a war between the cities," Radosh said. "It's going to get out of hand."

Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank C. Ortis doesn't like the idea, either. "I don't think someone who's been in an accident should have to pay a fee when they already pay taxes. It's just not good public policy."

But with Davie facing cuts imposed by the state Legislature, it's now even more important to recoup funds, Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen said Tuesday.

"We're patrolling state roads and we've been looking for compensation from the state, but we're not going to get it," Cohen said. "Nine out of 10 of these [accidents] are not involving Davie residents but Davie residents end up footing the bill."

Some small towns in Florida have already imposed similar fees, said Regina Moore, president of Cost Recovery Corp., the Ohio-based firm helping Davie with its proposal.

In Davie, the average fee would start at \$600 for fire service and \$240 for police, Moore said. The fees would also cover accidents outside town limits should Davie police or fire respond.

Davie Fire Chief Donald DiPetrillo has been researching the plan for the past couple years as a way to recoup the cost of responding to accidents, town officials said.

Proponents of the plan say it gives the town a way to reduce the tax burden on its residents.

"Davie residents are already paying their taxes," Moore said. "This is an effort to alleviate their tax burden."

Fran Horton, of Davie, liked the notion of recouping town dollars, but worried it might lead to higher insurance rates.

"We pay such high fees in insurance," she said. "I don't think we should have to pay more than we already do."

The town's consultant insisted the fee would not lead to higher insurance rates, but industry experts disagreed.

Chris Neal, a State Farm Insurance Co. spokesman, scoffed at the town's claim rates would not increase.

"If the claims go up, the rates go up," Neal said from his office in Winter Haven. "It doesn't hurt the insurance company. We just raise rates."

Radosh, of Weston, said he planned to steer clear of Davie if the town starts charging the accident fee. "Why take a chance?" he said.

Susannah Bryan can be reached at sbryan@sun-sentinel.com or 954-385-7929.

To see more of The South Florida Sun-Sentinel or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/>.

Copyright (c) 2007, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

For reprints, email tmsreprints@permissionsgroup.com, call 800-374-7985 or 847-635-6550, send a fax to 847-635-6968, or write to The Permissions Group Inc., 1247 Milwaukee Ave., Suite 303, Glenview, IL 60025, USA.