

The Joint Economic Development Council supports primary job growth and an expanding tax base. In the competitive market for businesses that will add jobs and tax revenue flexibility is critical.

Without business attraction, retention, and expansion, the residents of Douglas County will continue to pay an ever-increasing share of the tax burden to support the amenities we expect as part of this vibrant community. To be vibrant, rather than stagnant or dying) requires growth. Growth sometimes requires stimulation or even transplanting. Incentives provide useful tools to attract and grow businesses. None of these tools should be discarded and we must be nimble in their selective use when appropriate.

Affordable housing is necessary for a diverse job force. We therefore need to be careful not to make the cost of providing housing too great, as this may have the counter effect of lessening available housing and thereby increasing demand and consequently cost.

Additional fees to apply for incentives should not be arbitrarily imposed.

While the “but for” test can provide valuable information and is required by law in some situations, we would encourage that there be discretion for the Commission to apply it on a case-by-case basis.

We urge the City Commission to make no changes to the current policies. We believe maintenance of maximum flexibility is critical.