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County to adopt Measure 37 ordinance

 By [Holly M. Gill](#)

After nearly three months of meetings, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners expects to adopt a Measure 37 ordinance at its meeting today, Feb. 2.

The ordinance is in response to the statewide passage of Ballot Measure 37 on Nov. 2. The measure allows some property owners affected by land-use regulations to seek compensation -- or a waiver of the regulation -- if the rules affect the value of the property.

The board has taken comments from the public at six meetings since November, and revised its draft ordinance numerous times.

The final version outlines a process for filing for a waiver of a county regulation. The county will not process compensation claims, according to County Counsel Jacki Haggerty.

Lavera Jeter of Culver questioned the county's decision not to accept compensation claims. "The county is more or less making a law in contradiction of what (Measure 37) says," she said at the commission's Jan. 26 meeting.

Commissioner Bill Bellamy responded, "We really expect most of the claims will be asking for a waiver."

"Staff time would be enormous if we had to get into compensation," said Haggerty. "We gambled that most people do want waivers. Even if someone files a compensation claim, there's no money to (pay) it."

Under the fee schedule the commission has approved, property owners can pay \$100 for a review of their situation. The county will charge \$250 for a simple waiver claim for an individual building, or \$500 for a more complicated waiver claim involving more than one unit.

The commission will consider the new ordinance at 11 a.m. today, in its meeting room at the Jefferson County Courthouse Annex.

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