

**THIS FLYER IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT INTENDED AS LEGAL ADVICE.**

**Re: *Private Property Rights Protection Act (A.R.S. § 12-1131 to § 12-1138)***

Under the Private Property Rights Protection Act (A.R.S. § 12-1131, et. seq.), a property owner is permitted to make a claim for just compensation if the value of the owner's property is reduced by the city's enactment of a land-use law to the property. A land-use law is defined as a law or regulation that regulates the use or division of land, such as municipal zoning laws, or regulates accepted farming or forestry practices.

For example, a property owner may file a claim against a city if the owner's existing rights to use, sell, divide, or possess the property is diminished in value by enactment or applicability of land-use laws to their property, even though the owner made the request or application to the city.

Under the Private Property Rights Protection Act, the city may request a waiver of a property owner's potential claim for any of the numerous land-use actions within the city's jurisdiction, such as rezoning property, platting, abandonments, annexations, change of use, requesting a use permit, or approval of development plans or site plans. The waiver is specific to the action requested.

By signing the waiver, a property owner acknowledges that a Private Property Rights Protection Act claim may exist but that the property owner voluntarily relinquishes the right to any claims that the city's land-use laws, applicable to the owner's property, reduce the property's value.

Not all land-use laws that are applied to an owner's property will raise a Private Property Rights Protection Act compensation requirement. The following seven (7) types of land-use laws are exempt from the application of the Private Property Rights Protection Act:

1. Laws or regulations that limit or prohibit the use or division of real property enacted for the protection of the public's health and safety, including rules and regulations relating to fire and building codes, health and sanitation, transportation, traffic control, solid or hazardous waste, and pollution control.
2. Laws or regulations that limit or prohibit the use or division of real property and laws historically recognized as "public nuisance" laws.
3. Laws or regulations that are required by the Federal government.

4. Laws or regulations that limit or prohibit the use or division of property for the purpose of housing sex-offenders, selling illegal drugs, liquor control, or pornography, obscenity, or any other adult-oriented businesses.
5. Laws or regulations that establish locations for utility facilities.
6. Laws or regulations that do not directly regulate an owner's land.
7. Laws or regulations that were enacted before the effective date of December 7, 2006.

A complete version of the Private Property Rights Protection Act is available at your local law library, at Title 12, Chapter 8, Article 2.1 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.

#### **If The Waiver Is Not Executed**

If an owner elects not to sign a waiver, he/she will execute a Refusal to Sign Waiver Form and return the form to city staff. For legislative actions such as re-zonings or general plan amendments, information regarding whether a waiver has been executed will be included in the staff report for the case and the owner's case and application will move through the city's process.

#### **Questions Regarding the Waiver**

If you have specific questions on the interpretation of the Private Property Rights Protection Act and/or execution of a waiver, you may consult with privately retained counsel. City staff, including the City Attorney's office, are prohibited from giving legal advice to private parties.