

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

A window on the local economy. Business and consumer news from the four corners of the metro Phoenix area, including a rundown of some of the notable stories of the past week.

City OKs 1 of 3 housing plans

By Edward Gately

The Arizona Republic

The Scottsdale City Council on Tuesday approved the first of three proposals to build apartment complexes in the Scottsdale Airpark despite warnings from Councilman Bob Littlefield and others that it will hurt Scottsdale Airport and drive business to other Valley airports.

The three proposals are non-major General Plan amendments to the Greater Airpark Character Area Plan that call for mixed-use residential buildings. The change could lead to more than 3,300 residents in the airpark area.

The council voted 6-1 to approve the General Plan amendment, rezoning and amended development standards for the Residences at Zocallo Place. It calls for a four-building, 240-unit apartment complex near the northwestern corner of Greenway-Hayden Loop and 73rd Street, north of the Scottsdale Quarter and south of the Scottsdale Promenade. The complex could attract an estimated 543 residents.

Littlefield was the only no vote.

The other two proposals will be considered by the council at its meeting on Tuesday. One calls for a 605-unit complex south of Hayden Road and west of Northsight Boulevard, and the other a mixed-use development with 720 apartment units on the CrackerJax site, on Scottsdale Road south of Paradise Lane.

Earlier this month, the Scottsdale Airport Advisory Commission rejected all three proposals, fearing that nearby residents would complain about noise and push for flight restrictions. The city Planning Commission, however, recommended the council approve all three proposals.

"Five years from now, when people are down here complaining about the noise, these (council members), if any of them are left, better hope that the voters forget that they voted for this," said Littlefield, who is a pilot.

The property that would house the Zocallo complex is owned by Scottsdale Place LLC. John Berry, a zoning attorney representing the property owner, said the proposal exceeds all Federal Aviation Administration and city requirements in the area.