

“m” Is for “Misnamed”

December 13, 2022

What does Florida Governor Ron DeSantis’s administration — more specifically, the state’s misnamed Department of Economic Opportunity (mDEO) — think it’s doing?

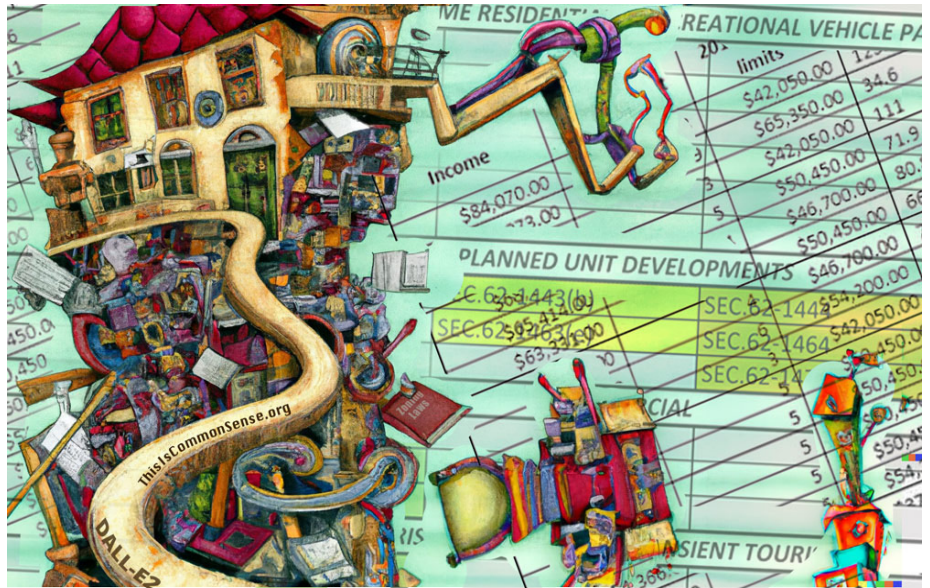
The town of Gainesville, Florida, has liberalized its zoning laws to legalize the construction of certain small apartment buildings.

Who knew that building any housing on property owned by developers or by persons letting developers build on their property was illegal to begin with? But better late than never, Gainesville.

I guess the folks at the mDEO aren’t especially ardent fans of Henry Hazlitt’s *Economics In One Lesson*.

Not so fast! says the reputedly pro-free-market but apparently also pro-central-planning DeSantis administration.

According to an mDEO lawsuit, it’s illogical “for the City to argue that by entirely removing the concept of lower density detached residential dwellings...it is doing anything more than helping provide housing to college students and higher income residents.”



Huh? Providing housing only for people who will use that housing! Via various voluntary market transactions!! Is there no end to human devilry?

Of course, as *Reason* writer Christian Britschgi points out, increasing the supply of housing units of any type will tend to reduce the demand for all already-existing housing, lowering the rents of units, including low-end units, that developers may not be building at the moment.

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And anyway, what about the inalienable right of anybody of any income level to make market arrangements to shelter themselves from the elements?

In the last few years, DeSantis has gained a good reputation, daring to resist the Big Government mob. Now he needs to resist that mob in his own administration.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.