

to be a member of City Council. Council needs public and journalistic moderation.

James R. Gillespie, St. Petersburg

U.S. flag is nobody's billboard

I am appalled by the Independence Day practice by a local real estate company of stapling its business cards to U.S. flags and sticking them into the ground in front of people's homes. Advertising in this way degrades our flag and cheapens our national birthday.

It is bad enough that the lure of money by businesses, especially in the service industry (shopping malls, fast foods etc.), forces so many to work on our national holiday. Most folks at least have a choice whether to patronize the hunters for the almighty dollar. But once a business card-inflicted flag is thrust into your yard, it must be dealt with directly.

If the real estate agents are trying to drum up business with this practice, it is in very bad taste. If they are simply trying to be nice by distributing flags, then the effort is misguided. The flags should be given directly to homeowners for use.

I have never had a problem with flag burners, thinking they are making some silly political statement — they have that right. But I don't have to condone flag burning or patronize real estate agents who deface the flag.

A. Scott Davis, St. Petersburg

Share your views

Direct your thoughts about issues in St. Petersburg, Gulfport, Pinellas Park and the Gulf beaches to *City Times*, P.O. Box 1121, St. Petersburg 33731, or dictate your thoughts on our recorder, 893-8169. Comments may be edited for clarity.

in response to complaint