

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Resolution by City )  
Commission of Haines City )  
Requesting Extended Area )  
Service (EAS) from Haines )  
City Exchange to )  
Exchanges within Polk )  
County. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Docket No. 950699-TL  
Filed: February 21, 1997

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
GEORGE H. CAREFOOT

- ACK \_\_\_\_\_
- AFA \_\_\_\_\_
- APP \_\_\_\_\_
- CAF \_\_\_\_\_
- CMU \_\_\_\_\_
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1 **Direct Testimony of**

2 **George H. Carefoot**

3 **On Behalf of The City of Haines City**

4 **Before the Florida Public Service Commission**

5 **February 21, 1997**

6

7 **Q. Please state your name, business name, address and title.**

8 A. George N. Carefoot, President, First National Bank of Polk County, Post Office  
9 Box 188, Haines City, FL 33845-0188.

10

11 **Q. Please describe your educational background and your business  
12 experience.**

13 A. I graduated with a BSBA from Stetson University in 1967. I am currently  
14 President of First National Bank of Polk County. I have previously served as  
15 President of Southland Bank in Deltona and Flagship Bank in Tallahassee.

16

17 **Q. Please describe your role as a community leader in Haines City.**

18 A. I am current President of Haines City Chamber of Commerce and past President  
19 of the Haines City Rotary. I also currently serve on the Ridge Technical School  
20 Advisory Board.

21

22 **Q. Why is it appropriate that the Florida Public Service Commission be  
23 concerned with the provision of countywide extended area service for  
24 Haines City?**

25 A. Haines City is the fastest growing area in Polk County. The County seat is in

1        Bartow, and Lakeland is the largest city in the county. Haines City residents  
2        must call long distance for many county services. Many services only available  
3        in Lakeland or other parts of the county require long distance calls, professional  
4        as well as retail.

5

6    **Q.    In what ways will the implementation of the extended area service impact  
7        your business and community interest?**

8    **A.    In January we made 92 calls to various in-county long distance numbers. This  
9        is costly over a year. We now have to use directory assistance or multiple  
10       phone books to make calls to Bartow and Lakeland and other exchanges in Polk  
11       County.**

12

13 **Q.    In what ways do you foresee the implementation of the extended area  
14        service impacting the economy of Haines City?**

15 **A.    Because of the growth, Haines City is losing its isolation from the rest of the  
16        County. It will allow Haines City to become a center of commerce.**

17

18 **Q.    Describe what you see as Haines City's growth potential with the extended  
19        area service for local telephone usage.**

20 **A.    It will make Haines City an even better choice for residents. Retail services will  
21        benefit since their customers can contact them without long distance charges.**

22

23 **Q.    Please describe any additional factors which you believe the Florida Public  
24        Service Commission should consider with regard to Haines City's  
25        application.**

1 A. Our County is tied together economically - retirement, citrus, distributions. It  
2 makes no sense to chop communication into smaller parts. In a time when one  
3 communicates with the world for flat rate cost, we must use a 1950's telephonic  
4 communications system. Using cellular phones, we can call throughout Central  
5 Florida, Orlando, Tampa and South to Fort Myers, without long distance  
6 charges. This Community should at lease have the small window of our county  
7 within which we can communicate freely.

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