

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 all )  
Exchanges within Polk )  
County. )

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

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
JIM NELSON

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

2 **Jim Nelson**

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. Jim Nelson, Post Office Box 545, Haines City, Florida, 33844, Publix**  
9 **Supermarket, Store Manager.**

10

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

13 **A. Graduate of Florida State University. Twenty-six years with Publix Supermarket.**

14

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

16 **A. Former City Commissioner of Haines City, 1994 - 96; Member of the Haines City**  
17 **Chamber of Commerce, served on its Board of Directors for eight (8) years;**  
18 **served on the Board of Directors of the Haines City Mainstreet Program, and**  
19 **currently a countywide "elected" official to the Polk County School Board**  
20 **District.**

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. Because as a resident, I feel we should not have to pay long distance to other**

1 cities in Polk County when it is not long distance to them. As a manager of  
2 Publix Store, we call our home office (Lakeland) frequently. As an Elected  
3 Official with the School Board office in Bartow, I feel I should not have to pay the  
4 "extra charge" when conducting business and performing my elected duties.

5

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

8 A. It will most definitely increase the volume of calls around the County. It would  
9 serve as an added "incentive" for people and businesses to call around the  
10 County without the detraction of inflated phone bills.

11

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

14 A. Haines City and the surrounding areas are statistically the fastest growing area  
15 in Polk County, and the fourth largest of the 17 municipalities. Extending the  
16 calling service can only have a positive impact for business and residents  
17 both now and in the future. It most definitely will increase the volume of calls  
18 from this area both from business, personal and governmental purposes.

19

20 **Q. Describe what you see as Haines City's growth potential with countywide  
21 extended area service for local telephone usage.**

22 A. Again, you will see a significant increase usage in the first year and a steady  
23 rise in the years after.

24

25 **Q. Please describe any additional factors which you believe the Florida Public**

1       **Service Commission should consider with regard to Haines City's**  
2       **application.**

3

4    A.    With major companies and distribution centers located in Lakeland, many  
5       Haines City residents either work or seek jobs in the Lakeland areas which  
6       require frequent long distance calls.

7

8       Also, the GTE Governmental Liaison for the Haines City area is located in  
9       Lakeland requiring a long distance call to contact him.

10

11       Because Bartow is the County seat, and home of the Polk County School  
12       system, parents, citizens and businesses in the Haines City area are charged  
13       long-distance rates where others in the County are not. This, I believe is an  
14       injustice.

15

16       As an elected countywide official, voted on by registered voters from the entire  
17       County, my constituents from Frostproof, Mulberry, Polk City, Fort Meade,  
18       Lakeland, and Bartow cannot reach me via a local telephone call at my  
19       residence or place of employment in Haines City.

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