

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. 950899-TL
Filed: February 21, 1997

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
RICHARD THOMAS WHEELER

- ACK _____
- AFA _____
- API _____
- CIF _____
- CMU _____
- CTR _____
- ENG _____
- LEG _____
- LRP _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- WFS _____
- YTH _____

DOCUMENT NUMBER 12
02023 FEB 21 6
FPSO TELETYPE REPORTING

1 College Alumni Association; Vice President of the Heart of Florida Optimist
2 Club; served for three years as a youth motivator for Eastside Elementary
3 School; and a member of the Quality Improvement Councils for Eastside
4 Elementary School, Boone Middle School, and Haines City High School. I
5 am a Past President of the Polk County Police Chiefs Association and am
6 currently serving on its Board of Directors. I am also a board member of the
7 Tampa Bay Chiefs Association. I spend a great deal of my time speaking to
8 service and civic clubs, churches, youth groups, etc. I presently serve on a
9 number of committees relating specifically to the Criminal Justice System and
10 Juvenile Justice System.

11

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

15 **A.** I believe the Florida Public Service Commission should be concerned with
16 the need to extend service for Haines City for several reasons, among which
17 is the mere fact that Polk County is over 2,000 square miles and Haines City
18 is located in the uppermost northeast corner of the county.

19

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

22 **A.** Law enforcement services are impacted greatly because criminals have no
23 boundaries. This necessitates constant communications between law
24 enforcement agencies within the county. It is the fastest form of relaying
25 intelligence information from agency to agency and many times will require

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

lengthy conversations between investigators. Due to the present restriction on telephone service and the requirements for an officer to justify his or her long distance calls, not having extended area service often hampers the sharing of necessary information.

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

A. Projections for growth in this northeast corner for the next ten years indicate we are in the fastest growing area in the county and perhaps the state. With growth comes the need to improve and enhance not only the area's infrastructure but desirability for new business to locate here in the Haines City area because we have enticements that will promote and draw business to them.

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

A. Extended telephone service is a tremendous drawing card. Businesses know up front that if over fifty percent of their telephone business in the county will require long distance charges, they will have second thoughts about relocating their business, thus, having a tremendous economic impact.

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

A. I believe that if the Florida Public Service Commission will grant the extended service area to include all of Polk County, it would cause a greater sharing of information between agencies in dealing with criminals. The simple equation of becoming more effective and efficient will decrease crimes committed. This will cause a decrease in the costs associated with law enforcement efforts which will decrease the crime rate which, in turn, will be an encouragement for people to locate in the Haines City area.