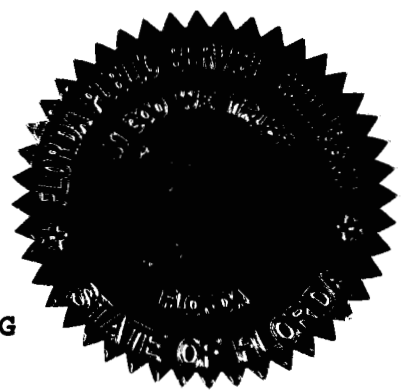


BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of : DOCKET NO. 980671-TL
:
Request for review of :
proposed numbering :
plan relief for the :
407 area code. :



PROCEEDINGS: ORLANDO SERVICE HEARING

BEFORE: CHAIRMAN JULIA L. JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER J. TERRY DEASON
COMMISSIONER JOE GARCIA
COMMISSIONER E. LEON JACOBS, JR.

DATE: Thursday, September 24, 1998

TIME: Commenced at 8:15 p.m.
Concluded at 8:25 p.m.

PLACE: Orlando City Hall
City Council Chambers (2nd Floor)
400 South Orange Avenue
Orlando, Florida

REPORTED BY: JOY KELLY, CSR, RPR
Florida Public Service Commission
Official Commission Reporter

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
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1 **APPEARANCES:**

2 **CHARLES REHWINKLE**, Post Office Box 2214
3 (MCFLTLH00107), Tallahassee, Florida 32316-2214,
4 appearing on behalf of **Sprint-Florida, Inc. (Sprint)**

5 **J. JEFFREY WAHLEN**, Ausley & McMullen, Post
6 Office Box 391, Tallahassee, Florida 32302, appearing
7 on behalf of **Vista-United Telecommunications (Vista)**.

8 **JUNE MCKINNEY**, Florida Public Service
9 Commission, Division of Legal Services, 2540 Shumard
10 Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870,
11 appearing on behalf of the **Commission Staff**.

12 **CHARLIE BECK**, Associate Public Counsel, Office of
13 Public Counsel, c/o the Florida Legislature, 111 West Madison
14 Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, appearing on
15 behalf of the **Citizens of the State of Florida**.

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18 **ALSO PRESENT:**

19 **D. WAYNE MILBY**, Senior NPA Relief Planner

20 Lockheed Martin

21 **THOMAS C. FOLEY**, Sprint

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I N D E X
WITNESSES

NAME	PAGE NO.
ROBERT F. STONEROCK, JR.	
Direct Statement	6

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Hearing convened at 8:15 p.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We're going to go back on
4 the record.

5 Again, I'm Julia Johnson, Chairman of the
6 Public Service Commission. We have a full Commission
7 with the exception of Commissioner Clark here to
8 participate in our 407 hearing. Counsel, could you
9 please read the notice.

10 MS. MCKINNEY: Pursuant to notice issued
11 August 27, 1998, this time and place was set for a
12 hearing in this Docket 980671, request for review of
13 proposed numbering plan relief for 407 area code. The
14 purpose of the hearing is set out in the notice.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: We'll take appearances.

16 MR. BECK: My name is Charlie Beck with the
17 Office of Public Counsel, appearing to sponsor public
18 witnesses.

19 MS. MCKINNEY: June McKinney on behalf of
20 Staff.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: I know the gentlemen who
22 would like to testify was here earlier. If you could
23 stand, I'll go ahead and swear you in at this time.

24 I appreciate you coming in to testify
25 tonight and appreciate your indulgence in sitting

1 through our first hearing. I wouldn't want you to
2 have to wait any longer. If you could, please come
3 forward. I notice that you already have our literature
4 and background information. We're mainly here to hear
5 from you and your views on how we should handle the
6 exhaust issue.

7 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** Am the only one?

8 **CHAIRMAN JOHNSON:** Yes, you are.

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10 **ROBERT F. STONEROCK, JR.**

11 was called as a witness on behalf of the Citizens of
12 the State of Florida and, having been duly sworn,
13 testified as follows:

14 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

15 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** Okay. I have an unique
16 suggestion as to how to handle the area code.

17 **CHAIRMAN JOHNSON:** I'm sorry, sir. If you
18 could give your name for the record, and where you're
19 from.

20 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** Okay. I'm Robert F.
21 Stonerock, Jr. and I'm from Orlando.

22 And I have a unique situation as to how to
23 handle the area code situation, and I think it's
24 unique, although I have no illusions that it's
25 probably been thought of before. I mean, that I've

1 never seen it offered as a solution before, and I have
2 been interested in the area code situation ever since
3 reading about how it was handled in Texas and in
4 Atlanta.

5 I believe that the area code problem has
6 come about in our area mainly due to the widespread
7 use of cellular phones and pagers. In theory, a
8 7-digit phone number system should allow about
9 8 million different phones to operate in any one area
10 code -- I mean phone numbers. I'm guessing that there
11 are some 2,500,000 people in the area code 407
12 currently, and that would allow for about three phone
13 numbers per individual, man, woman and child. Of
14 course, businesses take up some of the excess
15 available numbers, and this includes fax machines.
16 But I can see that with the widespread use of cellular
17 phones and pagers, the rest of the excess space would
18 rapidly dwindle. And I understand that that's to
19 happen sometime in 1999.

20 I propose the new area code should be
21 created into which all cellular phones and pagers
22 would be immediately transferred. In addition,
23 dedicated fax lines could also have that area code if
24 necessary. But mainly all cell phones and pagers
25 would have it.

1 the choice.

2 There was an article by Greg Dawson in the
3 recent Orlando Sentinel newspaper in which he
4 fatalistically says something like, well, why worry
5 about the new area code issue anyway? In about five
6 years there will be no geographic identity associated
7 with area codes at all.

8 Well, I submit that it is an inferior plan
9 which has us dialing more and more numbers for local
10 calls. And it is worse not having a clue as to where
11 an individual is that we're calling, or whether we're
12 dialing long distance to reach that person. And it is
13 the worst of all having to memorize what your
14 neighbor's area codes are. Also, having to dial more
15 numbers means more mistakes and more numbers are
16 harder for most of us to remember so we'd have to just
17 look them up which takes time. The modern-day
18 tendency is to make things more complex for the sake
19 of more options. Doing so can make life more
20 difficult, which is quite the opposite of the intent
21 of those options. I think that just this once we
22 should keep things simple. Assign the cell phones and
23 pagers the new area code and leave the rest of us
24 alone with the local entity, and with the ability to
25 dial fewer numbers to make local calls.

1 Now, extemporaneously I might also say that
2 having had some time to reflect on this situation it
3 seems to me that I am a great objector to overlay
4 versus the split system. And I think that's quite
5 apparent from what I just read. But that the -- for
6 me the overlay system would be out. I would think
7 that adding one more digit, either to a 7-digit phone
8 number, or one more digit to the area code, would also
9 take care of the problem, leaving for area code
10 identity. One more digit in either of those
11 modalities would automatically allow us to have some
12 eight to ten times more phone numbers associated with
13 any one particular area code. And that would be
14 considerable for a long time to come.

15 That's all I have to say.

16 **CHAIRMAN JOHNSON:** Questions? I do have a
17 couple of comments with respect to your suggestion.

18 I think your suggestion is a good
19 suggestion. In fact, the state of New York, I think,
20 was the first to deal with that issue and they tried
21 to implement an area code assignment to the beeper
22 carriers, and I believe the cellular providers. That
23 was challenged by the providers as something that was
24 not competitively neutral.

25 As we open up our markets to competition one

1 of the provisions of the federal act calls for a
2 competitive neutrality. That case went through the
3 federal court system and the standard of competitive
4 neutrality prevailed. There's currently another state
5 attempting to do the same thing, and it's my
6 understanding that it's Connecticut, and that they
7 filed something with the FCC with a similar proposal.

8 I'm not certain as to the status of that
9 case. Counsel, are you aware of the case and might
10 you have some information on the status?

11 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Yes, Chairman. On March 31,
12 1998, the Connecticut Department of Public Utilities
13 Control filed a petition before the FCC dealing with
14 the subject in which we're speaking: Wireless overlay
15 strictly dealing with those phones.

16 Staff checked with the FCC to get an update
17 on what the status of the petition is pertaining to
18 that issue, and we were informed it's in the
19 preliminary stages. The FCC is trying to determine
20 whether or not to reopen up that issue. And that's
21 where it stands.

22 **CHAIRMAN JOHNSON:** So there may be some
23 reconsideration of that particular standard. And in
24 fact, we've received comments and filings from other
25 citizens in the state here, and generally 257 of them

1 that have filed with the Commission thus far, just to
2 put a statement on the record, have indicated an
3 interest in the split. Only two supported the overlay
4 and there were 18 that said well, why don't you give
5 it to the cellular pagers and the fax machines, the
6 new area code. So there are some folks thinking as
7 you are, perhaps not as articulate and prepared in
8 presenting before the Commission. So we appreciate
9 your comments. And I think it's something that we all
10 do need to look at a little more closely, and
11 hopefully the FCC will give us a little more leeway in
12 that regard.

13 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** I hope so too. And I'd
14 also like to say that I'm heartened to hear that area
15 code identity is something that is alive and well in
16 our hearts, and I think that's real important.

17 **COMMISSIONER GARCIA:** Let me just tell you
18 what the theory behind it is, because I think it is a
19 good idea. But the whole concept is to some degree
20 that the FCC determined, they said you want to sort of
21 be able to compete on all levels. And the truth is
22 that cellular to some degree tries to compete with
23 business lines. And there are some people who only
24 have cellular service. I agree with you and I think
25 every one on this Commission would love to have that

1 as an option before us. It's just -- let me ask you
2 before you leave, because you have given considerable
3 thought to this. Let's say we can't do what you
4 suggested and FCC doesn't come down with ruling
5 before -- because I guarantee you, if they came down
6 with a ruling, we'd probably go your way. But of the
7 plans that are offered, did you see any one you
8 preferred? I know you didn't like the overlay. But
9 of the -- I don't remember how many there are --
10 there's ten different plans, excluding two of them are
11 overlay, so that leaves eight plans -- are there any
12 of these you felt a preference for?

13 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** I probably did not
14 examine them well enough. But I did come up with a
15 general concept about that.

16 I think that our -- traditionally, I've
17 lived here a long time and traditionally -- I'm an
18 Orlando citizen -- and I think in terms of especially
19 Winter Park, Ocoee, East Orlando as being part of the
20 Metropolitan Orlando area much more than I do the
21 Kissimmee people. I don't think that -- it's almost a
22 natural.

23 **COMMISSIONER GARCIA:** Do you have this green
24 sheet?

25 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** Yes, I do.

1 **COMMISSIONER GARCIA:** Could you open up to
2 Page 4. So you would think that Alternative 2 is
3 around what you're talking.

4 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** Let me look at that.

5 **COMMISSIONER GARCIA:** Yeah. Real quick.
6 Alternative 2 or Alternative 7, I would assume.

7 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** 7. Something of that
8 nature. Yes, I believe so.

9 **COMMISSIONER GARCIA:** One last question:
10 One of your fellow citizens, customers, participants,
11 suggested the 321 area code if we have pick a new area
12 code. What do you think about that? In other words,
13 to sell the concept of we're the space area, for the
14 Brevard area of the -- what do you think of that as an
15 area code, 3-2-1?

16 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** You mean the actual
17 numbers 3-2-1?

18 **COMMISSIONER GARCIA:** Yeah.

19 **WITNESS STONEROCK:** I think it's great.

20 **COMMISSIONER GARCIA:** Good. Good. It gets
21 the "Idea and Month" in my book. It's absolutely
22 wonderful.

23 **CHAIRMAN JOHNSON:** Thank you for your
24 testimony. Appreciate you're waiting. Thank you.

25 I'd like to thank you all for coming out for

1 both our hearings. Appreciate all of the testimony
2 that we have been provided with this evening. Your
3 comments will be a part, again, of the record that we
4 will use, and a part of the record that we can use to
5 make our final decisions. And with that, this hearing
6 is adjourned. Thank you.

7 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded at
8 8:25 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF FLORIDA)
2 COUNTY OF LEON)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER


3 I, JOY KELLY, CSR, RPR, Chief, Bureau of
4 Reporting, Official Commission Reporter,

5 DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the Hearing in Docket
6 No. 980671-TL was heard by the Florida Public Service
7 Commission at the time and place herein stated; it is
8 further

9 CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported
10 the said proceedings; that the same has been
11 transcribed by me; and that this transcript,
12 consisting of 14 pages, constitutes a true
13 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

14 DATED this 8th day of October, 1998.

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JOY KELLY, CSR, RPR
Florida Public Service Commission
Chief, Bureau of Reporting

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