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99-141

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, Florida 33948-1094
Phone: (941) 743-1330
FAX: (941) 743-1550

March 24, 1999

RENEE FRANCIS LEE
COUNTY ATTORNEY

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records & Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

MAR 25 9 51 AM '99
ADMINISTRATIVE
MAIL ROOM

Re: Request for Review of Proposed Numbering Plan Relief for the 941 Area Code
Docket No. 990223-TL

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed are the original and fifteen (15) copies of Charlotte County's Prehearing Statement in the above-referenced docket.

Please acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by stamping the enclosed extra copy of this letter and returning same to me at your convenience. Thank you for your assistance

ACK _____ in this matter.

WFA _____

APP _____

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EAG _____

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Enclosures

OPC _____

RCH _____ cc: Renee Francis Lee, County Attorney

SEC 1
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WAS _____

OTH _____

Sincerely,

Martha Young Burton
Martha Young Burton
Assistant County Attorney

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FPSC BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

ORIGINAL

**STATE OF FLORIDA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In re: REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF PROPOSED
NUMBERING PLAN RELIEF FOR THE 941
AREA CODE.

Docket No. 990223-TL

CHARLOTTE COUNTY'S PREHEARING STATEMENT

(a) Witnesses

1. Mac V. Horton, Chairman, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners.
The impact of changing part or all of Charlotte County's area code just three years after the last area code change, the resulting expense and confusion to the County's citizens and businesses, and preference for splitting the 941 area code into more than two sectors to lengthen area code exhaust time.
2. Wayne Sallade, Charlotte County Director of Emergency Management.
The impact of two different area codes in Charlotte County on the County's Emergency Management plan, including delays in public notice and evacuation, increased costs and manpower; recommendation to now split 941 area code into more than just two sectors to lengthen area code exhaust time.
3. Cheryl Lauzon, Charlotte County Director of Tourist Development.
Charlotte County's several diverse geographic and population areas and current major marketing effort to unify the public's perception of Charlotte County as one physical travel destination; request to delay the expense of changing area codes as long as possible.
4. Bill Wishard, President, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, and Major Accounts Manager, Florida Power Corp.
How splitting the area code within Charlotte County would alter the County's sense of community, how using a river or road as an artificial boundary line would harm the community, and preference for adding more area codes now rather than changing them so often.

(b) Exhibits
None

(c) Basic Position

The proposed split of the 941 area code will be extremely detrimental to the citizens, businesses, and government of Charlotte County. A preferred alternative is to split the 941 area code service area into more than two sectors, thereby delaying further area code splits for a longer period of time. If Charlotte County must be split, moving the southern dividing line for the new 941 sector to the southern area of Charlotte County, where there is less development, would be much preferred.

(d) Questions of Fact at Issue

1. The expense and harm of frequent area code changes to Charlotte County citizens, businesses, and government; the expense and harm are too great; all witnesses.
2. Whether the Proposed Numbering Plan Relief for the 941 Area Code best resolves the exhaustion of 941 area code numbers; the proposed plan is only a temporary measure and does not address the problem long term; all County witnesses.

(e) Questions of Law at Issue

1. If the PSC approves the Proposed Numbering Plan Relief for the 941 Area Code, what effect would such decision have on PSC Docket No. 990184-TL "Investigation into boundary issues in South Sarasota and North Charlotte Counties (Englewood Area)"? None, since they are two separate dockets.
2. Could a later PSC decision in Docket No. 990184-TL affect the instant case, thereby necessitating further area code service area revisions? It is possible.
3. What if the PSC approves a different revised plan of relief for the 941 area code, that allows Charlotte and Sarasota Counties to share the same area code? Docket No. 990184-TL would then become moot and could be closed.

(f) Policy Questions at Issue

1. What factors should determine how the exhaustion of numbers in the 941 area code service area is addressed? A combination of technical, financial, governmental, demographic, geographic, and political factors. All County witnesses.
2. Should local governments, citizens and businesses in the affected areas be given a voice in the process? Yes. All County witnesses.

3. Should the process be technical, political, or a combination thereof? A combination thereof. All County witnesses.

(g) Stipulated Issues

None that Charlotte County is aware of.

(h) Pending Motions or Other Matters

1. Charlotte County's Motion to Intervene dated March 18, 1999.
2. Charlotte County's Motion for Extension of Time dated March 18, 1999.
3. Charlotte and Sarasota Counties' Joint Motion Joining Sprint and GTE's Joint Motion to Consolidate, dated March 23, 1999.

(i) Requirements that cannot be complied with, and reasons therefore.

1. Controlling dates of March 18, 1999, for filing Prefiled Direct Testimony because Charlotte County filed its Motion to Intervene on March 19, 1999, and just received a copy of the "Order Establishing Procedure" by FAX from the PSC on March 23, 1999.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of March, 1999.

Charlotte County Attorney's Office
Martha Young Burton, Assistant County Attorney
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094
(941) 743-1330
FAX (941) 743-1550

By: 
Martha Young Burton
Assistant County Attorney
Fla. Bar No. 398179

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. 990223-TL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by U.S. Mail this 24th day of March, 1999, to the following:

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Mark A. Carpanini, County Attorney
Polk County Board of County Comm.
330 W. Church Street
Drawer BC01 - P. O. Box 9005
Bartow, FL 33831-9005

June McKinney, Esq.
Division of Legal Services
Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Mike Stedem
3200 Hwy. 17N.
P. O. Box 976
Fort Meade, FL 33841

Charles J. Rehwinkel, Esq.
Sprint-Florida, Inc.
P. O. Box 2214
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Fritz Behring, City Manager
City of Ft. Meade
8 West Broadway
P. O. Box 856
Ft. Meade, FL 33841-0856

Kimberly Caswell, Esq.
GTE-Florida, Inc.
P. O. Box 110, FLTC0007
One Tampa Center
Tampa, FL 33601

Dr. Willard Coy, Vice-Chair
Area Planning Board
244 Mark Twain Lane
Rotunda West, FL 33947

Ms. Beverly Y. Menard
c/o Ms. Margo B. Hammar
GTE Florida Inc.
106 East College Ave., Ste. 810
Tallahassee, FL 32301-7704

Englewood Water District
P. O. Box 1399
Englewood, FL 34295-1399

Oakview Lake Homeowners Assn.
300 S. Washington Ave.
Fort Meade, FL 33841

Ms. Pam Domres, President
Olde Englewood Village Assn.
285 Dearborn St.
Englewood, FL 34223

Ms. Stephanie Mead
Shark Tees and Screenprinting
425 West Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223

Mr. Francis J. Heaton
Director of Planning & External Affairs
CellularOne
2100 Electronics Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33912

Mr. Gordon Greenfield
CHEETAH Technologies
2501 83rd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34203

Angela Green, Esq., General Counsel
Fla. Public Telecommunications Assoc.
125 S. Gadsden Street, #200
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1525

Charles J. Beck
Office of the Public Counsel
111 W. Madison St., Room 812
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400

Kathleen F. Schneider
Sarasota County Attorney's Office
1660 Ringling Blvd., 2nd Floor
Sarasota, FL 34236


Martha Young Burton, Esq.