

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

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

-----

In the Matter of : DOCKET NO. 981941-TL  
:  
Investigation into telephone :  
exchange boundary issues in :  
South Polk County (Ft. Meade :  
area). :

-----

Investigation into boundary : DOCKET NO. 990184-TL  
issues in South Sarasota and :  
North Charlotte Counties :  
(Englewood area). :

-----

Request for review of proposed: DOCKET NO. 990223-TL  
numbering plan relief for the :  
941 area code. :

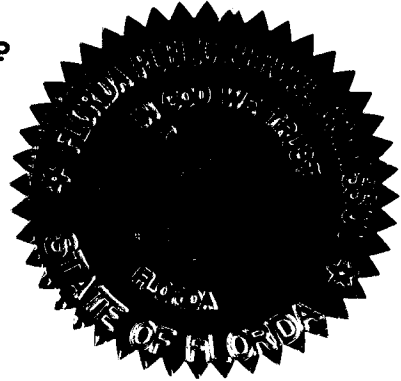
-----

PROCEEDINGS: ENGLEWOOD STAFF WORKSHOP

DATE: Friday, March 26, 1999

TIME: Commenced at 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: SunCoast Auditorium  
Englewood Community Hospital  
700 Medical Boulevard  
Englewood, Florida 34223



TAPE RECORDING TRANSCRIBED BY: JOY KELLY, RPR  
Bureau Chief of Reporting  
FPSC Division of Records  
and Reporting

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE  
04448 APR -69  
FPSC-REPORTING

1 **PARTICIPATING:**

2                   **JUNE MCKINNEY**, FPSC Division of Legal  
3 Services.

4                   **ANN SHELFER, MICHAEL BARRET** and  
5 **LEVENT ILERI**, FPSC Division of Communications.

6                   **CHARLES REHWINKEL**, Sprint

7                   **MIKE SCOBIE**, GTE

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

	I N D E X	
	WITNESSES	
3	NAME	PAGE NO.
4	MAC HORTON	
5	Direct Statement	24
6	MARTY BURTON	
7	Direct Statement	27
8	SHANNON STAUB	
9	Direct Statement	29
10	HELEN BECKER	
11	Direct Statement	35
12	PAUL PHILLIPS	
13	Direct Statement	36
14	GREG WANNER	
15	Direct Statement	38
16	WILLARD COY	
17	Direct Statement	40
18	JOHN FELLIN	
19	Direct Statement	42
20	KATHLEEN SCHNEIDER	
21	Direct Statement	46
22	JAMES EWING	
23	Direct Statement	51
24		
25		

1	WITNESSES CONTINUED:	
2		
3	STEFANIE MEAD	
4	Direct Statement	54
5	GRACE AMODEO	
6	Direct Statement	59
7	CHARLES McALLISTER	
8	Direct Statement	60
9	BRUCE POMEROY	
10	Direct Statement	65
11	JILL LEAH	
12	Direct Statement	68
13	GIOVANNA DEVENY	
14	Direct Statement	70
15	NANCY HARPER	
16	Direct Statement	74
17	TAYLOR MEALS	
18	Direct Statement	76
19	CHARLES REHWINKEL	
20	Direct Statement	78
21	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	93
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 (The following has been transcribed from tapes  
2 provided by the Florida Public Service Commission  
3 Staff.)

3 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Good morning. By notice  
4 issued on February 22nd, 1999, this time and place was  
5 set for this workshop in Docket No. 990184 to  
6 investigate the boundary exchange issues in south  
7 Sarasota County and north Charlotte County, the  
8 Englewood area. The purpose is set out in the notice.

9 My name is June McKinney and I'm the  
10 attorney assigned to this case. We're going to be  
11 following the agenda I hoped everybody picked up this  
12 morning, the yellow sheet, as it states and whatever  
13 is in it. The first thing is we'd like to make Staff  
14 introductions on the Florida Public Service  
15 Commission.

16 This is Levent Ileri. He's technical Staff,  
17 an engineer with the Public Service Commission. Back  
18 there waving is Ann Shelfer. She's also technical  
19 Staff. And Michael Barrett who's technical Staff.  
20 Wave Michael.

21 At this time we'd also like any members of  
22 the industry to please stand up and introduce yourself  
23 and tell what company you are from and also any public  
24 officials so we'll know who is here.

25 **MR. SCOBIE:** My name is Mike Scobie. I'm

1 with GTE. (Unintelligible)

2 **MR. REHWINKEL:** My name is Charles Rehwinkel  
3 and I'm from Sprint-Florida. (Unintelligible)

4 **MR. PHILLIPS:** Paul Phillips, Englewood  
5 Water District.

6 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Mr. Phillips, you can go  
7 ahead and join the parties of record. That's what the  
8 table is for. Please join us.

9 Any other public officials? We don't want  
10 to miss anybody. (Unintelligible)

11 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Anyone else?

12 We'd like to welcome you all here.

13 The workshop that's set today is a method in  
14 which the Commission goes and develops issues and  
15 finds out what's going on with Floridians pertaining  
16 to a particular area. We're here today to discuss  
17 telecommunications, and, of course, the boundary line.  
18 I'm going to give you a little history of what's  
19 happened to bring you up-to-date.

20 I want you to know that the Englewood  
21 community has been very involved in what's going on.  
22 I, personally, have received about 300 letters, faxes  
23 and e-mails from the community, and that's very  
24 helpful to the Commission. We thank you, because we  
25 wouldn't know what's going on if you didn't contact

1 us. So I wanted to let you know. Thank you. People  
2 come up apologizing for jamming up my fax machine and  
3 jamming up my e-mails, I don't mind. My computer  
4 crashed I was getting so many from Englewood.  
5 (Laughter) But if, in fact, you hadn't let us know,  
6 we wouldn't know what was going on. So thank you. If  
7 you have have concerns, please let the Commission  
8 know.

9           What happened was, a while back the  
10 Commission set workshops in various places. They were  
11 set in December '98 and January and February of '99 to  
12 hear issues pertaining to the proposed area code  
13 change.

14           There was some confusion from the letters  
15 that I received and so I'm trying to clarify the  
16 process so you understand before we go on. I want to  
17 make sure that everybody here understands.

18           When an area code takes place, a change, the  
19 Florida Public Service Commission does not become  
20 involved unless there's a complaint, okay. So we  
21 don't have jurisdiction to do anything about an area  
22 code change unless somebody formally complains.

23           When we first find out that there's going to  
24 be an area code change, the industry, those being the  
25 parties, the telephone companies that are involved in

1 the areas of the area code, get together and they meet  
2 with an agency called NANPA, that's a federal agency;  
3 they control all of the area codes for the whole  
4 United States, and they keep up with what's going on  
5 in all of the area codes for the whole United States.  
6 And they look and they say, "If Florida's going to  
7 exhaust or run out of numbers in a certain area. We  
8 need to meet and decide to do something about it."

9 Well, last summer they meet with the  
10 industry, GTE and Sprint, and they made a plan for how  
11 they were going to resolve this. They come to an  
12 agreement and that's how an area code change take  
13 place. The Florida Public Service Commission doesn't  
14 have anything to do with it unless there's a  
15 complaint.

16 So what we did was we set the workshops that  
17 I nexted earlier in December in late '98 and early  
18 January to travel across Florida. Because we were  
19 interested in knowing what the Citizens of Florida had  
20 to say about the area code change.

21 I'm sure you heard about the workshop that  
22 was set in Bartow. And when we went to that workshop  
23 that's when we learned about the Englewood problem,  
24 okay. That's why we set these workshops. We want to  
25 do that.



1           The workshop in Bartow was held on February  
2 5th. That's when we first learned about the problem  
3 in Englewood. Well, the Commission is very consumer  
4 oriented, so Staff, the individuals here, we went back  
5 to the Commission and we said, "Well, what can we do  
6 about Englewood?" If, in fact, there's anything we  
7 can do to help you.

8           We met for about a week. We talked with the  
9 industry, because we have to talk to them. It's their  
10 area. They are the people with the actual lines. And  
11 we said there might be something we could do for them,  
12 so let's set them for a hearing. That's how this  
13 workshop was set today.

14           We opened the docket in your case on  
15 February 17th, 1999, and that's docket now 990184.  
16 There are other areas that the companies have been  
17 getting together and helping, for example, Fort Meade.  
18 And they had a similar meeting to the one we're having  
19 today. And there was a resolution that was made  
20 between the community and industry to help that area  
21 out.

22           After we set your hearing dates and the date  
23 for this workshop, a formal complaint was filed on the  
24 area code. It was filed on February 28th. So that's  
25 after everything was already set pertaining to

1 Englewood.

2 Under the law we're required to set a  
3 hearing when there's a formal complaint. And so a  
4 hearing was set for the 941 area code, and we opened  
5 the docket on March 1st.

6 The Commissioners understood the urgency of  
7 the area code change, and the reason why it's so  
8 urgent is because permissive dialing -- that's when  
9 you could use the old area code and new area code when  
10 there's a change -- that's supposed to start in March  
11 of 1998. The permanent area code change was supposed  
12 to take place in September -- so sorry, not '98; '99.  
13 The permanent area code change was supposed to take  
14 place in September of '99. That's right around the  
15 corner, ladies and gentlemen. So the Commissioners  
16 put everything on a fast track because they understood  
17 the urgency. So therefore the hearing for the area  
18 code, 941 area code, was set for April 8th and 9th.  
19 It's coming up.

20 Well, at that point Staff and I met and  
21 we're trying to decide how to handle your situation,  
22 Englewood, since we had set that beforehand. And we  
23 decided it was best that we come on down here, hear  
24 your concerns and see what we could do to still help  
25 you. There are some other things going on also.

1           There's been a motion filed by Sprint and  
2 GTE, now Sarasota County and Charlotte County, to  
3 combine all of the cases together. Because whatever  
4 happens in the 941 area code, expects what happens in  
5 Englewood. That motion is still pending at this time.  
6 The Prehearing Officer has not made a ruling.

7           But I just wanted to bring you up-to-date so  
8 you could understand. Again the Public Service  
9 Commission does not get involved in area code changes  
10 unless there's a complaint. We did not receive the  
11 complaint until February 28th. So now the issue is  
12 before the Florida Public Service Commission and they  
13 get to decide what changes will be made pertaining to  
14 the 941 area code.

15           And as this process goes along, what we want  
16 to hear from you today, those individuals that signed  
17 up to speak, is what your concerns are pertaining to  
18 Englewood and how you feel about what's going on.

19           Also, if you look in the green Special  
20 Report that we handed you it has the specific dates of  
21 the 941 area code, April 8th and 9th, and it has the  
22 locations. All of you are welcome to come out there,  
23 too, because the area code change does affect you.

24           So that's a little background about what's  
25 happened. At this time we'll take any customer or

1 industry comments. When you come up to the microphone  
2 make sure that you state your name. I'll call you  
3 individually; state your name and your address for the  
4 record, because this is being tape recorded.

5 Does anybody need of the additional forms, a  
6 Special Report or anything? The young lady over  
7 there.

8 At this time I'll start calling out  
9 individuals just come to this microphone.

10 It appears that we have about 20 individuals  
11 signed up to speak. Unfortunately we have a time  
12 limitation because the auditorium is booked. So if,  
13 in fact, somebody says what you want to say, we'd  
14 appreciate if you'd limit your comments and perhaps  
15 not repeat what they said. I'll call you out  
16 individually.

17 One more thing. I just want to mention that  
18 if the dockets are combined, then the Englewood  
19 hearing that's set in the summertime will not take  
20 place then. You're hearing will be on the fast track  
21 to be with the 941 area code hearing. So you'll know  
22 about what's going to happen quicker, okay. I'll also  
23 be taking questions at the end or if you have  
24 questions when you come up you can ask them at that  
25 time.

1           The first person, will Mac Horton, please,  
2 come up to speak. (Pause)

3           I made a mistake. I want you guys to see  
4 what's going to happen before you speak, and Levent  
5 Ileri is going to do a slide presentation and explain  
6 everything to you technically. (Laughter)  
7 (Unintelligible)

8           **MR. ILERI:** Good morning. My name is  
9 Levent Ileri, and I'm Staff with the PSC. I just want  
10 to give you some overview of the significance of the  
11 information which is out of the two different opinions  
12 on area code. (Unintelligible) One is an overlay.

13           The normal method of demonstration which is  
14 (Unintelligible)

15           **THE AUDIENCE:** We can't hear back here. We  
16 can't hear. Talk into the mike.

17           **MR. ILERI:** North American Numbering Plan  
18 Administration, which does the numbering. They assign  
19 the NPAs, numbering in the area, or the area codes,  
20 (Unintelligible)

21           And in the survey, which is known as COCUS,  
22 and based on this information they imported industry  
23 and our Commission with regard to the area code rate  
24 plan. And that's (Unintelligible) took it from one of  
25 those, overlay, and reached a process of this plan.

1           And this is just a the regular geographic  
2 area (Unintelligible). One usually takes the old area  
3 code, and the other takes the new area code.  
4 (Unintelligible) With the overlay we take two area  
5 codes and you put them under each other, and under  
6 those it is said -- (Unintelligible) -- changing your  
7 brochures, your advertisements and those kind of  
8 changes.

9           And, again, this is not exact. This is not  
10 overlay problem. This is administrative  
11 (Unintelligible) Any questions?

12           And the first alternative is the split which  
13 is the industry COCUS and the -- (Unintelligible) --  
14 941 area code (Unintelligible) The first one is  
15 quote -- says -- (Unintelligible) Those periods are  
16 indicated as 512 and NXX. And basically this began  
17 during our workshops. Staff has chosen two  
18 alternatives that includes the Fort Meade exchange and  
19 Port Charlotte and Cape Haze exchanges. And, of  
20 course, investigation 4.6 at 6.7 years.

21           The next alternative is (Unintelligible)  
22 Charlotte County. Over here for 941 to 452, of  
23 course, this increases the exhaust area and new area  
24 code (Unintelligible).

25           We also discovered we can do overlay by

1 taking new area codes and assigning one area code to  
2 the new division, which is -- (Unintelligible) --  
3 Exhaust rates for overlay as it indicates is 12 years.  
4 (Unintelligible) Other areas we're not sure --  
5 (Unintelligible) -- under the existing area codes I'm  
6 sure they will be expecting -- (Unintelligible) -- to  
7 address all area codes. The last time was the  
8 (Unintelligible) 941 area code, in which exhaust  
9 dates -- (Unintelligible) -- I guess there's --  
10 (Unintelligible)

11 I'd like to point out in any of those plans  
12 in Alternative 1 or Alternative 5, the reason is for  
13 the change is ten digit or seven digits due to --  
14 (Unintelligible) -- overlay doesn't change.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I'm sorry. But I  
16 don't think any of us understand any of this. I  
17 don't. I'm sorry.

18 **MS. SHELFER:** I just want to state. The  
19 area code does not change your calling plan on the  
20 days that you -- (Unintelligible) -- and you have \$.25  
21 calls, it stays -- (Unintelligible) -- a person makes  
22 a call. The overlay section goes to --  
23 (Unintelligible) -- into that county. The number of  
24 digits you dial may change but not how much you pay.  
25 None of that changes. (Unintelligible)

1           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Ma'am, on Alternative  
2 4, the assigned two area code and have a split also,  
3 the area code that will be assigned to the old 941,  
4 the existing 941 north area, would that be put in  
5 place immediately? Would it be activated immediately  
6 over not?

7           **MS. SHELFER:** The overlay portion?

8           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah. I assume the  
9 second area code would be used for an overlay in that  
10 alternative.

11          **MS. SHELFER:** Yes.

12          **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Would that second  
13 area code be activated immediately? Do you know?

14          **MS. SHELFER:** I'm trying to think what's  
15 happening -- (Unintelligible)

16          **MR. ILERI:** Regarding overlay or split, and  
17 when you split generally split (Unintelligible).

18          **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Basically you don't  
19 know when that --

20          **MR. ILERI:** We don't know, no.

21          **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** If I read your maps  
22 correctly, my understanding only Alternative 1 is the  
23 one that divides Englewood.

24          **MR. ILERI:** That's right.

25          **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Has any consideration



1 ever been given to a service function overlay as  
2 opposed to a geographical overlay? By that I mean you  
3 can take all cellular phones. For example, all  
4 cellular, paging, and special function phone lines,  
5 data access lines, whatever are assigned a different  
6 area code. That way your phone lines remain as we  
7 are, if you will, so it would solve the problem for  
8 the request of new lines.

9           **MS. MCKINNEY:** That's a suggestion that's  
10 been made throughout the nation. It's consistent  
11 consensus among Americans that that solves the  
12 problem. However, it was ruled in court that you  
13 couldn't do that because of anticompetitive --  
14 (Unintelligible) -- customers and companies because  
15 some cities they are getting more interest in  
16 (Unintelligible) -- arguments about -- they are  
17 getting more business out of the area code they had.  
18 They they should be treated differently from  
19 (Unintelligible) -- than your cell phone company. So  
20 the court has ruled that you can't do that and that's  
21 why (Unintelligible).

22           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Okay.

23 (Unintelligible) (Laughter)

24           **MS. MCKINNEY:** Any additional questions.

25           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I have another

1 question on Alternative 4. It seems that the --  
2 there's a split takes place first and then there's  
3 equipment, overlays -- .

4 **MR. ILERI:** This kind of information is from  
5 (Unintelligible) be based on -- and (Unintelligible)  
6 regarding how to do (Unintelligible).

7 And based on that information, I can't tell  
8 you (someone coughs). It will be made when  
9 (Unintelligible).

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I guess I don't  
11 understand that, the difference between Alternative 1.  
12 Alternative 1 is the split. The split that you show  
13 in Alternative 4.

14 **MR. ILERI:** Right.

15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** But with an overlay.

16 **MR. ILERI:** Overlay. It goes -- Alternative  
17 4 includes the Charlotte County, Port Charlotte and  
18 (Unintelligible)

19 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Oh. Okay. So the  
20 area is more like Alternative 2. Alternative 3 is  
21 split.

22 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Alternative 1 with  
23 the whole -- (Unintelligible) Area code for the  
24 actual site that has area coded (Unintelligible)  
25 Looking at an alternative is adding more from the

1 county end so Englewood stay together. So look at the  
2 areas in each map, see which of the different  
3 proposals to help Englewood out. Look at the shaded  
4 area. The shade is different.

5 Yes, Commissioner?

6 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I thought that  
7 Alternative 3. Alternative 3 I think is just --

8 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Louder, Mac, please.

9 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Okay. How about  
10 that? (Laughter) Alternative 3 probably addresses  
11 the concerns of this particular area better than  
12 anything else. But a short period of time we'll have  
13 4.2 years we're out of luck and have to do something  
14 again. What would happen if you proposed different  
15 alternatives all together? How about an Alternative  
16 6, which was made of Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte  
17 Counties. 941. Would they be able to extend our line  
18 out from the standpoint before we run out of numbers?  
19 You don't like that? (Laughter)

20 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Well, it's not that we don't  
21 like it. We have all of these guidelines.  
22 Unfortunately, we have the jurisdiction to make the  
23 distinction on the specific area code change that  
24 there's not guidelines with the federal that we have  
25 to follow, and the law provides that area that's the

1 most density gets to keep the area code, and that kind  
2 of makes things difficult sometimes.

3 (Unintelligible)

4 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** On your advantages  
5 and disadvantages sheet, and on the map that you've  
6 got on the screen up there, I want to ask in the  
7 disadvantages under geographic split, Item 3, yours  
8 looks a little bit -- shouldn't we put inter-NPA  
9 EAS/ECS route will require 10-digit dialing?

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Would you interpret  
11 all of that for us?

12 **MS. SHELFER:** EAS is toll free. That's  
13 where it's part of your basic local rate. ECS is  
14 extended calling service; that is for residential  
15 customers, they take 25 cents per call and that's what  
16 that is. Local is EAS.

17 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I just want to make  
18 sure that everyone understands it's all 7-digit  
19 dialing today. That you draw a line across the route,  
20 would have to go to 10-digit dialing.

21 **MS. SHELFER:** He's looking at the NPA.  
22 Anything that's between area codes will require  
23 10-digit dialing.

24 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** And then on the map,  
25 I know I've discussed this with -- this is what I

1 showed to Ann a few minutes ago. Charlotte County  
2 line -- put the map back up there.

3 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** This map?

4 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yes. The Charlotte  
5 County line actually goes through or bisects five  
6 exchanges. So you only show the four Charlotte -- you  
7 show the four Charlotte exchanges into DeSoto County.  
8 And that's true. But so does the Punta Gorda  
9 exchange, the North Fort Myers exchange and the Boca  
10 Grande exchange. And Punta Gorda comes down into Lee  
11 County as well.

12 **MR. ILERI:** Basically mistake over here  
13 recording the -- showing these changes. What he's  
14 saying is that North Fort Myers exchange goes into  
15 Charlotte County, which is -- about this wide here.

16 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Right. That's right.

17 **MR. ILERI:** And it comes from the north --  
18 (Unintelligible)

19 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** That's right.

20 **MR. ILERI:** Then something (Unintelligible)  
21 Excluding it or including it.

22 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** What I wanted to say,  
23 there were customers there that would have to call  
24 10-digit to say the county seat if you cut -- if you  
25 drew the line strictly along the county boundary.

1           **MR. ILERI:** I understand. Thank you.

2           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Boca Grande is also  
3 part of Charlotte County.

4           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Part of.

5           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Part of.

6           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah. I mentioned  
7 that.

8           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Yeah. Isn't Palm  
9 Island too? (Simultaneous conversation)

10          **MS. SHELFER:** It's hard for us who do not  
11 live here to quickly realize which exchange is the  
12 first one.

13          **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I have a question.

14          **MS. MCKINNEY:** Excuse me, I'm sorry. Go  
15 ahead. There is difference between Alternative 1 and  
16 Alternative 2. Do you know how much of that's  
17 attributable to -- how much is attributable to  
18 Fort Meade?

19          **MR. ILERI:** Alternative 1 is listed as being  
20 in the area of -- (Unintelligible) That's the reason  
21 why we're here today to discuss options.

22          **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** The question is the  
23 difference between Alternative 1 and 2 effects not  
24 only Englewood but also Fort Meade. And the two of  
25 those combined count for .6 year difference in exhaust

1 I'm wondering how much is for each one. It's all  
2 Englewood?

3 **MR. ILERI:** I do not have that information.

4 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Population in Englewood? We  
5 don't have the specific information with us to answer  
6 the question. We'll get back to you on that.

7 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** There's a rule of  
8 thumb. There's only one code in Fort Meade, I  
9 believe, so all of the difference is really  
10 attributable to the Englewood exchange. Virtually all  
11 of it.

12 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Hold on a minute. We think  
13 we have that information. Let me check. (Pause)

14 **MS. SHELFER:** Just to give you an idea,  
15 Fort Meade has about 33,200 access lines. Where  
16 Englewood has about 22 000, 23,000. So Englewood  
17 definitely puts the larger bid on it.

18 Because we're limited with time we're going  
19 to go ahead and start taking customer testimony. So  
20 I'm going to put the mike over, and Ms. McKinney will  
21 be calling out, and I guess -- you can come back up  
22 now.

23 **MS. MCKINNEY:** I apologize.

24 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Turn the lights on  
25 now.





1 southwest region parallels the territorial lines  
2 dividing GTE Florida and Sprint." In Englewood that's  
3 always been our problem because that's where we have  
4 always been divided.

5 We would like to see that changed. And if  
6 we can't change something along that line, then we  
7 have accomplished nothing. So we need to see that  
8 change and look at it a little bit differently.

9 The plan would take Manatee and Sarasota  
10 Counties and separate Charlotte County from that. I  
11 don't think that's in the best interest of Charlotte  
12 County. I know that's not in the best interest of  
13 Englewood. Whatever we do with this, Charlotte County  
14 needs to be very closely related to their sister  
15 county of Sarasota. Whatever happens to Sarasota with  
16 this needs to happen with Charlotte County, and vice  
17 versa, so that we are not split again in Englewood.

18 I'm having difficulty. I've got to wear two  
19 hats. I've got to wear Charlotte County's hat and  
20 I've got to wear Englewood's hat. But I think when  
21 you get to the bottom line of everything you're  
22 talking about we need to do something along the plan  
23 of Alternate 3. That's the only one there that I see  
24 that addresses and has Sarasota County and Manatee  
25 County and Charlotte County together. I would really

1 like to exclude Polk but I understand what you're  
2 telling me. There's a lot of people up there and  
3 there's a lot of consideration there so I understand  
4 that.

5 But we really need to keep -- and I'm going  
6 to say it again and probably say it again before I'm  
7 through -- we need to keep Sarasota and Charlotte  
8 County together. If you take Charlotte County and  
9 break out the Englewood section, you've compounded the  
10 problem without really resolving it.

11 So whatever we do we need to keep Sarasota  
12 and Charlotte County together and then we can -- have  
13 I said that enough? Okay, I've said that enough.  
14 I've gotten that point across.

15 As far as the overlay is concerned, I'm not  
16 real excited about the overlay. I understand that may  
17 be something that we have to have because it's  
18 inevitable, but I've got to keep Sarasota and  
19 Charlotte County together. Thank you.

20 **MS. SHELFER:** Let me ask you a question. If  
21 the choice was to change between a geographic split  
22 and an overlay, you believe that the overlay would be  
23 more effective in your area keeping it together.

24 **COMMISSIONER HORTON:** Unofficially, speaking  
25 for myself alone, I would see the overlay as being an

1 accepted alternate if that's the best I can get. But  
2 I don't like that.

3 **MS. SHELFER:** Thank you. I understand.

4 **MR. BARRETT:** Did that conclude your  
5 remarks?

6 **COMMISSIONER HORTON:** That's it. I've done  
7 it.

8 **MR. BARRETT:** Okay. The next --

9 **COMMISSIONER HORTON:** I want Sarasota County  
10 together.

11 **MR. BARRETT:** We got it.

12 I want to point out, our speakers shall the  
13 order that people are going to be called was the order  
14 that they signed in, so those of you that came in  
15 later, you'll be speaking a little bit later. But the  
16 next person we have is Marty Burton. Marty.

17 - - - - -

18 **MARTY BURTON**

19 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

20 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

21 **MS. BURTON:** Good morning. My name is Marty  
22 Burton. I'm an Assistant County Attorney with the  
23 Charlotte County Attorneys Office.

24 The main concern of Charlotte County has  
25 been very well addressed by Chairman Mac Horton as far

1 as our county not desiring to be split. And he has  
2 also explained the quandary that he is in. He wishes  
3 to keep the Englewood community together but as  
4 Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners he also  
5 needs to look at what is best for the county as a  
6 whole. And even though we realize we may not be able  
7 to have the splits exactly along county lines because  
8 of the way the exchanges are delineated, we think it  
9 would be best to look at the growth and population  
10 locations within each county and feel that at the  
11 northern edge of our county we have a lot more growth  
12 and development that crosses the county line than we  
13 do at the southern edge of our county.

14 We also believe that in trying to look at  
15 how to resolve the Englewood question, we can't really  
16 come up with the best solution unless we also look at  
17 the 941 docket, which is why we have joined in with  
18 Sprint and GTE in the motion to consolidate the two  
19 dockets.

20 We would hope that in the future there would  
21 be some way to be able to have some community and  
22 governmental input into the plans for the various  
23 changes for telephone area codes and for growth of the  
24 communication system. We know this is a federal  
25 matter and there may not be an opportunity to do this,

1 but if there's any way that we can, and we're  
2 certainly open to suggestions from the PSC, Staff, we  
3 would be interested. Thank you.

4 We would also favor the same alternative  
5 that was chosen by Commissioner Horton, which is  
6 Alternative 3, if we had to choose between these five.

7 **MR. BARRETT:** Shannon Staub.

8

- - - - -

9

**SHANNON STAUB**

10 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

11

**DIRECT STATEMENT**

12

**MS. STAUB:** For the record my name is  
13 Shannon Staub. I'm Chair of the Sarasota Commission  
14 and District 3 representative, which includes the  
15 Englewood community.

16

I think we need to explain to those folks  
17 who don't live in this area why we feel factually that  
18 the Charlotte County and Sarasota County, particularly  
19 the Englewood community, has to stay together.

20

Back in 1995 both counties created what we  
21 call a bi-county advisory board. This board is made  
22 up of appointed citizens who HAVE worked very  
23 diligently and hard since 1995 to come up with  
24 recommendations on how the two counties can serve the  
25 Englewood community as one entity.

1           In looking at that, they have given us  
2 suggestions for land planning, for transportation  
3 planning, for utility planning and for emergency  
4 management.

5           Englewood is not only unique because of  
6 Charlotte and Sarasota splitting it, but it also has  
7 two special districts that were created by the state  
8 legislature. You have the Englewood Water District  
9 and you have the Englewood Fire District. So we are a  
10 hodge-podge in Englewood of a lot of government  
11 entities.

12           For the last few years we have strived very  
13 hard to bring Englewood as one community. Because  
14 when people travel they don't know they are going  
15 across the county line; they don't want any attention  
16 to that. When they get their water they're not real  
17 sure it's from the special district, Charlotte or  
18 Sarasota, they just know they get their water. Same  
19 thing with emergency management.

20           So I think that when you look at the  
21 community we have to look at all of the efforts that  
22 governments and special districts have put into making  
23 this a singular community.

24           We are in the plans right now for major  
25 expenditures on transportation routes. Together

1 Charlotte County and Sarasota County have put together  
2 a package where actually Charlotte County tax dollars  
3 are going to pay for a road in Sarasota County, and  
4 evacuation road that will help the Sarasota County  
5 residents during hurricanes. So we're talking about  
6 we're not having a problem taking tax money across the  
7 line. People don't have a problem using services  
8 across the line. So I think the area code needs to  
9 stay intact for the Englewood community.

10 We also -- we're planning an evacuation  
11 route that's going to be \$60 million if we get in the  
12 next five years; probably going to be more than that.  
13 We have put infrastructure in to service the whole  
14 Charlotte and Sarasota County area. We have a sports  
15 complex that's called a regional complex that serves  
16 both counties. We have started a downtown  
17 revitalization that's multi millions of dollars. It  
18 will take the Charlotte County businesses and the  
19 Sarasota County businesses and revitalize both. So  
20 there's no county line in our minds right there.

21 We have a library that takes care of people  
22 who live in Charlotte County and Sarasota County. Our  
23 students in Sarasota County in high school don't go to  
24 Sarasota County High School; they go to Lemon Bay,  
25 which is in Charlotte County.

1           So as you can see, it is a total  
2 interrelationship between the counties. To try to  
3 break up that relationship will destroy many tax  
4 dollars that are forthcoming in planning and an awful  
5 lot of government consideration and citizen  
6 participation in making the sense of community remain  
7 there. We have the Englewood Community Hospital,  
8 which is used by both residents of both counties.

9           The area code, I think, number one, must  
10 keep Charlotte and Sarasota County county together.  
11 The druthers, I think the very one I've talked to --  
12 and I understand it's not possible but we're going to  
13 put it on the floor anyway, is involve Sarasota,  
14 Manatee and Charlotte Counties have an area code, even  
15 if it was a new area code, it could last longer.

16           Manatee County and Charlotte County also  
17 have a lot of interaction which I hope, as we proceed  
18 on the April 8th hearing, to be able to tell you more  
19 about that interrelationship.

20           But I think that the issue of Englewood is  
21 one that you can't just disregard. Because the people  
22 here, primarily the elderly people and the number of  
23 school children that we have, would not be conducive  
24 to having a split where you've got to do 7-digits here  
25 and 10-digits there.



1 I'm not going to say that we support any of  
2 the alternatives at this point. Because I think that  
3 it's too easy for people just to say you got up there,  
4 you had 20 people voting for Alternative 3, so they'll  
5 accept that.

6 I think what the Commission and the industry  
7 needs to really look at is what's best for the  
8 geographical area of Sarasota and Charlotte, in my  
9 hopes bringing in Manatee and taking that into  
10 account.

11 I think the overlay would not be  
12 satisfactory. As I say, our residents are very hard  
13 to adapt to change. And I think that the confusion  
14 there -- Sarasota County has, I believe, the second  
15 highest elderly population in the state and we may be  
16 first by now. So I think that we have to give  
17 consideration to the demographics of the area.

18 I'd also like to make just one final  
19 statement on the process.

20 I would hope that when this process happens  
21 again, that local governments are really consulted and  
22 used as consultants. We can provide extremely good  
23 demographic area projects for population growth. We  
24 know that our land planning is going to develop areas.  
25 We definitely are going to have higher densities. You

1 all aren't even able to take that into account, I  
2 don't believe, at this point. Because we're looking  
3 at a major 50,000 acres in northern part of Sarasota  
4 County that in our land use planning may incur higher  
5 densities. Probably by next year. Meaning that the  
6 land there change. It won't happen overnight, but we  
7 will be planning.

8           So I think that if we can work more in  
9 concert with the Commission, the Commission Staff and  
10 the industry to help get factual information as well  
11 as those anecdotes of the folks that live here and put  
12 a face on this community, I think, is very important.

13           So I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I  
14 think that if you all can look at keeping Charlotte  
15 County and Sarasota Counties together -- and I  
16 advocate putting the dockets together so we can  
17 discuss the inclusion of Manatee also. Thank you.

18           **MR. BARRETT:** Thank you.

19           I wanted to point out a couple other things.

20           I told you that the speakers are going to be  
21 called in the order that they signed in. If you chose  
22 to decline to speak, you can just -- when your name is  
23 called, if you just say, "I don't wish to speak,"  
24 that's perfectly fine. And if you signed in and you  
25 did not indicate that you wanted to speak, we will

1 still ask you if you want to speak once we clear all  
2 of the folks that have signed in.

3 (End of Side A, Tape 1.)

4 **MR. BARRETT:** Helen Becker and Paul  
5 Phillips.

6 - - - - -

7 **HELEN BECKER**

8 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

9 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

10 **MS. BECKER:** I'm Helen L Becker. And I live  
11 at 5226 Neville Terrace in Gulf Coast, which is on the  
12 Myakka River in the Cape Haze peninsula, and my formal  
13 address is Port Charlotte. And I live 15 miles away  
14 from Port Charlotte, but thanks to General  
15 Development, that's my address.

16 I've lived here 20 years. We've already --  
17 when we first came we had a 813 exchange; then it  
18 became 941. And I, myself, think that the Cape Haze  
19 peninsula is being excluded from a lot of things. I  
20 think you need to realize that Charlotte County is  
21 really divided by the Myakka River. And it costs me a  
22 quarter; before it was long distance now it's a  
23 quarter to call Elga Bean (ph), which is across the  
24 town. And it costs me -- whatever -- it's a long  
25 distance call for me to call Japanese Gardens, up in

1 the other side of Englewood.

2 We're just -- nobody wants us. And I think  
3 this is all wrong. I belong to an organization that  
4 includes Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte County.  
5 That's a nice group. I don't understand why you have  
6 Polk County in here in the first place. If you're  
7 going to put us with anybody, why don't you put us  
8 with Hardee and DeSoto? I mean, I just don't  
9 understand it. Thank you.

10

- - - - -

11

**PAUL PHILLIPS**

12 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

13

**DIRECT STATEMENT**

14

**MR. PHILLIPS:** For the record my name is  
15 Paul Phillips. I'm one of the elected members of the  
16 Englewood Water District. And the Water District is  
17 located at 201 Selma Avenue. The headquarters happens  
18 to be in Sarasota County.

19

I'd like to describe further -- you heard  
20 from the Commissioners of both Charlotte and Sarasota  
21 County. Well, the Water District is a small political  
22 body formed in 1959 by the state legislature for the  
23 purposes of providing water and sewer service for this  
24 area.

25

Now, I have passed out maps for the

1 legislative -- or the PSC people. But for the rest of  
2 you, I'm sure you all know this is the Englewood Water  
3 District area. And if you look very carefully you  
4 find this is the county line. Right there. And so  
5 the people who get water and sewer live down here.  
6 People who get water and sewer live up here and they  
7 totally disregard -- pay no attention to the county  
8 line.

9           So if there was any division -- thank you,  
10 you can just put it down -- if there was any division  
11 or -- of difficulty of dialing or things for the staff  
12 or for the citizens because of overlay, the difference  
13 between seven digits and ten digits, this would make  
14 life extremely difficult, if not impossible for these  
15 people. It's imperative that the Water District, as a  
16 small political body within both Sarasota and  
17 Charlotte County, remain as a single entity.

18           We have people that are calling -- in other  
19 words, if you can imagine an irate customer calling  
20 because a pump station is overflowing in their front  
21 yard, they are about as mad as they can get at that  
22 point. And then they have to remember, "Oops, I have  
23 to dial ten digits to report this versus seven if I'm  
24 calling somewhere else." Forget it. It's a terrible  
25 situation; most unsatisfactory for everyone.

1           The Water District, as I said, is a  
2 political entity, a special district, and that it is  
3 imperative that it continue to operate in the way it  
4 has.

5           Right now, for example, the sewer plant  
6 servicing the entire Englewood area is located in  
7 Charlotte County. The water facility servicing the  
8 entire water district is located in Sarasota County.  
9 So you can see that it crosses this county imaginary  
10 line with absolutely no impact whatsoever on our  
11 operation. And we would hope and respectfully request  
12 that whatever happens that it will continuously be no  
13 impact on the operation.

14           Thank you.

15           **MR. BARRETT:** Greg Wanner.

16   - - - - -

17   **GREG WANNER**

18           appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

19   **DIRECT STATEMENT**

20           **MR. WANNER:** My name is Greg Wanner. And  
21 I'm owner of an Internet service provider called  
22 Englewood On-line, some of you may be aware of.  
23 Currently we operate out of Charlotte County. We are  
24 moving into Sarasota County.

25           I guess my main purpose for coming here

1 today is just to express -- I can tell you there is a  
2 lot of confusion if the area code changed. I receive  
3 at least one or two e-mails myself per day, not to  
4 mention every public event I attend or every public  
5 meeting that we go to I always hear the question, in  
6 this area code change, does that mean I have to get a  
7 new service provider because you're going to be long  
8 distance? Of course, I try to educate the the public  
9 and tell them no, that's not the case. It's simply  
10 that you're going to have to dial ten digits.

11           Once again, as the Commissioners have  
12 explained, there's an older population. Technology  
13 sometimes just does not -- they just don't grasp the  
14 concept of what that means. And I think generally  
15 speaking, when everyone sees that you have to include  
16 an area code, you've just become programmed that you  
17 have to dial "1" and then the area code.

18           We have seen cases, too, where we do have  
19 instances in certain areas -- because we cover a large  
20 area, we actually go from Sarasota to Punta Gorda is  
21 where we provide local service -- and we have had  
22 cases where customers have dialed a local number using  
23 the area code when it should have been blocked and  
24 being charged long distance charges. Of course, I get  
25 the irate customer with the \$200 phone bill.

1           So I guess all I'm trying to say is I think  
2 it's going to create a lot of confusion and I'd have  
3 agree with Commissioner Staub's proposal, that we  
4 include Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte County as one  
5 area code. If that needs to be a new area code, that  
6 would be fine, but at least make us that one section  
7 or one community so that we can all remain and we  
8 don't have that problem of trying to reeducate. I  
9 don't like the idea of an area code change but I'd  
10 rather see that than an overlay or a split. Thank  
11 you.

12           **MR. BARRETT:** Dr. Willard Coy.

13                                 - - - - -

14                                 **WILLARD COY**

15 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

16                                 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

17           **MR. COY:** Good morning, ladies and  
18 gentlemen. For the record, I'm Willard Coy. I'm the  
19 vice-chair of the Englewood Area Planning and Advisory  
20 Board. And our purpose, to reiterate what Chairman  
21 Staub had said, the board's purpose is to advise the  
22 governing bodies of Sarasota County, Charlotte County,  
23 and the city of North Port on the coordinated  
24 provision of county services to the entire Englewood  
25 community.



1           If you'll look at the maps that I've passed  
2 out to these people, if you'll look right on the upper  
3 left, the area shown on the map area is approximately  
4 what we consider the northern boarder of Englewood,  
5 and then the Gulf will be the western boarder. And  
6 the Myakka River would be the eastern boarder. And  
7 you can see that the Englewood area encompasses all of  
8 Cape Haze peninsula and that's what we consider the  
9 Englewood area. There's no dividing line as the  
10 Sarasota county line.

11           Emphasizing the fact that we are  
12 coordinating the efforts between the Sarasota and  
13 Charlotte County, it's very important -- it's  
14 important to keep this intact. Agree that Manasota --  
15 I beg your pardon -- Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte  
16 Counties should be one, but your Plan 3 would be the  
17 next acceptable one.

18           I think at this time, rather than continue  
19 on with anything else that everybody has said, that I  
20 would just add my recommendations to keep no division  
21 in the Englewood area; to have minimal effect on  
22 businesses and residents; a minimum effect on existing  
23 emergency services. And since there is another  
24 inframeasure in the near future, we must consider  
25 that. I'm concerned about the ability of the

1 forces-to-be on the projected time limits. The track  
2 record isn't very good. I wonder what's going to  
3 happen if we set something we're going to be here for  
4 six years and suddenly, "oops", it's only two years.  
5 We must consider that.

6           The other main concern that I think people  
7 have in this area is that Englewood, in the past, has  
8 been forgotten. We want you to recognize that 60%  
9 approximately of all of the tourist tax dollars are  
10 spent in the Englewood area. So the businesses are  
11 seriously affected by you.

12           Thank you.

13           **MR. BARRETT:** John Fellin.

14           - - - - -

15           **JOHN FELLIN**

16           appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

17           **DIRECT STATEMENT**

18           **MR. FELLIN:** Good morning. For the record,  
19 John Fellin. And as usual, I'm not sure what hat  
20 to wear this morning. I do serve as the Chairman of  
21 the Chamber of Commerce's Position and Politics  
22 Committee that brought the Chamber into this at the  
23 outset. I also am the Chairman of the Englewood Area  
24 Planning Advisory Board that's been referred to  
25 before. Also the president of Digital Electronic

1 Systems who manufacture communications and  
2 telecommunications equipment.

3           Nobody likes change. And change is  
4 inevitable. When you make change, you have to draw a  
5 line where that change occurs. And no matter where  
6 you draw that line someone is not going to like where  
7 that line is at.

8           I hope that from what you've heard today  
9 that you understand that this is not your typical  
10 situation. We don't have a situation where Charlotte  
11 County is saying, "No, don't change our area code,"  
12 and Sarasota County is saying, "No, that's fine.  
13 We're going to stay the same." Both government  
14 agencies, the ones that originally proposed to stay in  
15 941 and those that weren't, are both saying this is a  
16 bad idea.

17           We all, I think, are under the mechanics of  
18 the geographical division. We've gone through that  
19 just about three years ago when we went from 813 to  
20 941. I think, at least I -- I'm not -- technical  
21 aspect of this, I'm a little foggy at just how the  
22 overlay works on a mechanical situation. I've heard  
23 differing opinions, even from the people at this  
24 table, as to we have to dial 10-digit numbers or just  
25 if you're going to a different area code. I'd like

1 someone to state that clearly. Someone who  
2 understands, with authority can state that for the  
3 record, so we really know what we're talking about  
4 here today.

5 A question was raised about the sequencing  
6 of the overlay; whether that had to take effect  
7 immediately, concurrent with the geographical split or  
8 could that be furthered to some later point in time.

9 I would think, just again a simple practical  
10 sense aspect, if that could be sequenced at some  
11 future date.

12 We've also heard the suggestion of creating  
13 a new area code for Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte  
14 Counties. Obviously the time frame we're looking at  
15 to implement this change that we're looking at does  
16 not permit that. At least, not from my perspective.  
17 I don't think you could go through the mechanics of  
18 the hearing process and implement that in a timely  
19 fashion.

20 Certainly from the alternatives that have  
21 been presented so far, Alternative 4 has the best  
22 exhaust of all of the alternatives that have been  
23 presented, and on that basis, certainly that could be  
24 supported.

25 I'd like to point out that Alternative 3

1 would be an intermediate step. It includes the same  
2 geographical boundaries as the best exhaust,  
3 Alternative 4. It would be consistent with a new area  
4 code for Manatee and Sarasota Counties, all of which  
5 would stay within the 941 area code. Seems to me,  
6 since we're up against the wall here, we're under the  
7 gun; we've got to do something and do something fast.  
8 Let's do 3. That gives us at least a couple of years  
9 to try to figure out whether we want to see eventually  
10 implement the overlay, create a new area code for the  
11 three-county area or some other alternative that may  
12 come out of Washington. Let's face it folks, the day  
13 is not that far off. We're going to run out of area  
14 codes.

15           And I guess that's all I have to say today.  
16 Thank you.

17           **MS. SHELFER:** Just to answer the question he  
18 asked on overlay, whether you dialed seven or ten  
19 digits, federal guidelines states on an overlay it's  
20 mandatory 10-digit dialing for everyone. So 7-digit  
21 dialing is completely gone in a overlay situation.

22           **MR. BARRETT:** Kathleen Schneider. Oh.  
23 Okay. Pardon me.

24           Who's on deck is Mr. Ewing, I think. It's a  
25 little difficult to read. Erwin. You're on deck after

1 Kathleen.

2

- - - - -

3

**KATHLEEN SCHNEIDER**

4

appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

5

**DIRECT STATEMENT**

6

**MS. SCHNEIDER:** For the record my name is

7

Kathleen Schneider. I'm an attorney with the Sarasota

8

County Attorneys Office. And I have a few comments to

9

make about various points here in the process.

10

I guess one of the questions I have is where

11

we've heard about the NPA guidelines and that the

12

guidelines are intended to be followed and they are

13

sort of restrictive at this point, and the Commission

14

can't work around these and has to stay within them,

15

which makes sense. However, the guidelines state that

16

relief plans are to enable exhaust periods to be from

17

eight to ten years. So I guess our question in the

18

count is: Except for the overlay, none of these

19

alternatives meet the guideline of the eight-to-ten

20

year exhaust period. And one of the points that we

21

want to make, and it's actually better made in the 941

22

docket, but you can see this issue overlaps into this

23

docket, which, again, is why we want them

24

consolidated, is the county doesn't have any ownership

25

of 941 at this point. What we would really like to

1 see is something -- the area code service areas to be  
2 reconfigured so that we have a longer exhaust period.

3           Now, this may mean that the split is into  
4 more than one other area code, as is suggested now.  
5 And it may mean that there are two new area codes.  
6 And, of course, we advocate Manatee, Charlotte and  
7 Sarasota into one area code because of the political  
8 interconnection as well the community interconnection  
9 in those areas.

10           I know I've spoken to Ms. McKinney at the  
11 PSC and I understand that the NANPA does not like to  
12 do that. But I also see in the guidelines that they  
13 say generally only one area code is used in a split.  
14 It's not something that is categorically prohibited,  
15 at least I haven't been shown anything that does that.

16           I think that the guidelines also indicate  
17 there are issues to be considered during NPA relief  
18 planning. And they specifically state that the public  
19 reaction to, and political involvement in boundary  
20 decisions, the impact on market identity, recognition,  
21 geographic identity, public familiarity, public costs,  
22 911 system impacts -- these are all issues that the  
23 NANPA specifically says should be considered in relief  
24 planning. And it's our position that these have not  
25 been considered, at least to the point that we would

1 like to have them considered at this point.

2           And so we really would strongly advocate --  
3 I disagree with the previous speaker that there isn't  
4 time to reconfigure this into a new area code. I  
5 think that we should get on the -- we should just work  
6 toward that goal so that we have an eight-to-ten year  
7 period within which we can all function.

8           The multiple area code, the overlay issue,  
9 Sarasota County is very much against this. As  
10 Commissioner Staub has indicated, it's very confusing  
11 for residents of the county to have their neighbor  
12 have a different area code number; the business across  
13 the street to have a different area code number. It's  
14 hard enough to remember numbers themselves without  
15 having to worry about what the area codes are for your  
16 neighbors and businesses that you normally frequent.

17           Also, as the prefiled testimony indicates in  
18 the 941 docket, which, of course, is not in this  
19 docket but I'll bring it into play right now, is our  
20 emergency services director has stated that multiple  
21 area codes in one county can end up to be problematic  
22 during an emergency episode. And I think that he is  
23 one that can better address them. I'm not going to  
24 attempt to go into the particulars on them, which is  
25 another reason why this docket should be combined.



1 But it has to do with when computer systems break down  
2 and you have to end up with manual operations and  
3 sites; just a situation that all of us, in this area  
4 where we are very hurricane vulnerable, that we  
5 certainly don't want this kind of a situation, which  
6 overlays will definitely bring that problem to the  
7 front.

8           And also those people advocating overlays, I  
9 think that you should remember that if right now we're  
10 talking about one overlay, but there's nothing to  
11 prevent that overlay from exhausting and another  
12 overlay from being in place. So we could have three,  
13 four, you know, different area codes in our own  
14 community, and eventually we may end up with one area  
15 code per county. We may end up with one area code per  
16 city. I mean, who knows? The point that we want to  
17 make is let's take care of that now. Let's give us  
18 the exhaust period now.

19           Okay, we're in this -- I'll speed it up --  
20 but we're in this jeopardy period, which I'm not sure  
21 what the name is, where they say, "Hurry up. We're  
22 running out of numbers."

23           And the other point I want to ask the  
24 Commission to consider is this -- and I probably have  
25 the number wrong -- local portability, whatever that

1 is right now as I understand it -- and I'm a novice at  
2 this, so forgive me if I'm mixing things up. But I  
3 understand that there are something like 10,000  
4 numbers that are given to each carrier at a point, and  
5 they use these numbers. And the local portability is  
6 to reduce that amount to 1,000 numbers. And so I  
7 guess my question is, if we're in this jeopardy  
8 situation, has the Commission or will the Commission,  
9 look to see, as a result, different carriers used up  
10 their numbers? Are there numbers that haven't yet  
11 been used that they can put into the pot and get to a  
12 jeopardy position, give it some extra time. That may  
13 be so fundamental and so ridiculous that you're  
14 laughing. But I don't know. So I'm just asking, you  
15 know, maybe, think about this. I realize it's being  
16 test marketed. It was test marketed in Illinois and  
17 some other areas, and may be more acceptable.

18           But we would ask, don't make this easy and  
19 just come up with an easy solution. Give it some  
20 thought because we are, as a community, very concerned  
21 about the impact this has on emergency services, the  
22 community businesses and the residents themselves.

23           Thank you.

24           **MS. SHELFER:** I'll answer one of the  
25 questions.

1           We spoke with NANPA just the other day, and  
2 the tentative exhaust date for area codes for the  
3 United States is the year 2007. One of the things  
4 that was suggested that we look at is what we call  
5 number pooling, number portability, where you'll be  
6 able to take your phone number if you move.

7           The Commission is very much into number  
8 utilization. There are problems at the federal level  
9 that limit this state's jurisdiction and their ability  
10 to work with this, but I believe that in the near  
11 future you'll see much activity in this arena. Maybe  
12 like doing a 1,000 block number assignment instead of  
13 the current 10,000. And that will keep the exhaust  
14 date on the area code down as well.

15           So we are working toward that. Mr. Ewing.

16           - - - - -

17           **JAMES EWING**

18           appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

19           **DIRECT STATEMENT**

20           **MR. EWING:** Good morning. My name is James  
21 Ewing. I'm the spokesman for the Southwest County  
22 Alliance of Homeowners Associations. Now, that's  
23 southwest Sarasota County; all of our members in  
24 Sarasota County. There are about 4,000 homes in our  
25 alliance.

1           Our steering committee suggests, and this is  
2 the first time that I've heard this today, that we try  
3 to eliminate an immediate second division. There's no  
4 question that this area code is going to be divided  
5 now, but why not divide it into three area codes now,  
6 so that in a couple of years we don't -- we're not  
7 faced with doing it again. It's a real pain in the  
8 neck for businesses and even individual homeowners to  
9 go through an area code change.

10           Our committee suggests -- and by the way, we  
11 did not have these alternates before us -- the  
12 alternates that have been proposed here today. But we  
13 suggested that as part of the division of 941, that  
14 three areas be established. One would be Manatee,  
15 Hardee, and Polk Counties. One would be Sarasota,  
16 Charlotte and DeSoto counties. And one would be Lee,  
17 Collier and the main part of Monroe Counties. Glades,  
18 Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties unassigned.  
19 They could be left with Area 3 as they now are, Lee  
20 Collier and Monroe, or they could be divided as  
21 eastern extensions of each of the three areas we  
22 propose. This would keep an almost immediate second  
23 division of the area codes from happening.

24           I don't know whether the federal government  
25 will consider moving one area code into three, but the

1 figures that have been presented here this morning on  
2 probable need in the future are talking about 4.2  
3 years before they need to break up the new division of  
4 941.

5 Past history tells us that that probably is  
6 not long enough. Like right now, we're in the midst  
7 of having to break up 941 about two years earlier than  
8 the projected date was supposed to set.

9 We are definitely opposed to dividing  
10 Charlotte and Sarasota Counties into different area  
11 codes. There is too much connection between them. If  
12 you take the part of Charlotte County from the Myakka  
13 River to the Lemon Bay to the Gulf, and assign it with  
14 Sarasota County, then you've divided Charlotte County  
15 into two different area codes, and this is not good.  
16 Let's keep Charlotte and Sarasota County in one area  
17 code.

18 **MS. SHELFER:** All right. Two more points.

19 The time that we estimate the exhaustion of  
20 these area codes is based on information that's  
21 provided us by NANPA, and that's the National  
22 Association Numbering Plan Administration. So it's  
23 not something that we determine. So that information,  
24 like I said, is provided.

25 The second thing I'd like to address, while

1 we do have the alternative for the two area codes, the  
2 likelihood that we will actually be able to get to is  
3 probably slim to none, especially in light that we  
4 were informed that area code exhaustion was scheduled  
5 for 2007. I believe the direction that you will see  
6 the state commissions heading in is more number  
7 conservation of the numbers that we already have.  
8 Some information we've been doing recently is there  
9 are a lot of unused numbers available. It's just a  
10 matter of how we can get them back.

11 **MR. BARRETT:** Grace Amodeo -- and please  
12 forgive me if I do butcher your name -- you're  
13 speaking after Stefanie Mead.

14 - - - - -

15 **STEFANIE MEAD**

16 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

17 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

18 **MS. MEAD:** Good morning. I'm Stefanie Mean.  
19 I'm Chairman of Economic Development for the Englewood  
20 Area Chamber of Commerce. I have a business in the  
21 Sarasota County area, and my retail sales covers 70%  
22 of the Charlotte County area within the Englewood  
23 community.

24 Basically I'm just going to ask you a few  
25 questions to kind of clear some things up in my mind.

1 Alternative plan No. 3 looks real good to us. And  
2 that's in keeping with the Chamber of Commerce's  
3 resolution.

4 It's also in keeping with a proposal, a  
5 letter from Frank Tambarino (ph). He's the director  
6 of the Committee for Economic Development in Sarasota  
7 County. And I believe you have a copy of this letter  
8 but I'm just going to go ahead and give it to you for  
9 your records.

10 Basically that says please don't split the  
11 Englewood community. Okay.

12 My question, first off, was for alternative  
13 Plan 3, okay, after alternative Plan 3 has been  
14 exhausted in 4.2 years, would an overlay automatically  
15 come into effect?

16 **MS. SHELFER:** We'd go through the exact same  
17 procedures that we're going through now.

18 **MS. MEAD:** You would have to do that. Okay.

19 **MS. SHELFER:** Alternative 3 will be  
20 presented with an on-site plan, and then --

21 **MS. MEAD:** Okay. In the event that the  
22 alternative plan No. 4, the overlay comes into effect,  
23 are you going to change the terminology of "area code"  
24 to "prefix"?

25 **MS. SHELFER:** No. The prefix is the first

1 three digits --

2 MS. MEAD: What are you going to address  
3 that area code as? Because that's going to cause a  
4 considerable amount of confusion. Because area code,  
5 in the minds of the citizens, normal people, we think  
6 of area codes as designating an area. So would you  
7 change your marketing?

8 MS. SHELFER: It will be the same.  
9 (Simultaneous conversation.)

10 MS. MEAD: It will still say "area code."

11 MS. SHELFER: -- same area.

12 MS. MEAD: Okay. So my neighbor across the  
13 street could have a different area code.

14 MS. SHELFER: Yes.

15 MS. MEAD: Okay. And if there's an  
16 emergency, if somebody is trying to call, they haven't  
17 gotten the right area code, there will be that delay  
18 like on the 911. 911 goes through fast. But for  
19 hospitals or anything like that, right? (Simultaneous  
20 conversation)

21 MS. MEAD: Pardon?

22 MS. SHELFER: You'll have to know the area  
23 code.

24 MS. MEAD: You'll have to know the area  
25 code. Okay.



1           The other thing I just wanted to know is  
2 historically have overlays worked pretty well in other  
3 areas to your -- ah ha, June is laughing.

4           **MS. SHELFER:** The only one that we felt was  
5 implemented is Dade County.

6           **MS. MEAD:** Dade County.

7           **MS. SHELFER:** Florida. (Simultaneous  
8 conversation)

9           **MS. MEAD:** Okay. As far as I'm aware of,  
10 Charlotte County is the fastest growing county in the  
11 state of Florida.

12           In the event that after you all decide with  
13 your recommendations, I hope you're going to recommend  
14 alternative Plan 3 -- but in the event, after 4.2  
15 years is exhausted, and the population density of  
16 Charlotte County supersedes that of Polk County, could  
17 we then like go that -- keep that 941 area code for  
18 Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee?

19           **MS. MCKINNEY:** Definitely. Whenever your  
20 area code stops, the whole process starts over again.

21           **MS. MEAD:** Yeah. We have -- it's going to  
22 stop the 2007 or something.

23           **MS. MCKINNEY:** Whole exhaustion --  
24 (Simultaneous conversation)

25           **MS. MEAD:** But this is going to exhaust in

1 4.2 years so we still have some opportunity. That's  
2 what I'm saying. Okay.

3 And the last thing I just want to ask is the  
4 CASR time schedule for the docket -- I know it's  
5 tentative -- it says that on 9-9-99 the Staff is going  
6 to give its recommendations.

7 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Stefanie, that has changed,  
8 the dates of the CASR.

9 **MS. SHELFER:** The docket has consolidated.  
10 Those are nearer the dates of 941 area code.

11 **MS. MEAD:** Okay. Which --

12 **MS. MCKINNEY:** But the hearing date is  
13 changed to use the docket number -- (Unintelligible)

14 **MS. MEAD:** Okay.

15 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Because information is taken  
16 of a few that -- fast track.

17 **MS. MEAD:** Okay. Very good. I'd like to  
18 thank you for the opportunity you've given us in  
19 Englewood to state our case and make our comments  
20 known. And on behalf of the Chamber, we are -- we  
21 recommended that you seriously consider alternative  
22 Plan 3. Thank you.

23 **MS. MEAD:** Charles McAllister, you're on  
24 deck. The next speaker is Grace Amodeo.

25 - - - - -





1 member of the Englewood area community. Because the  
2 Englewood area community encompasses Cape Haze,  
3 whether that is recognized by Sprint, GTE or any other  
4 large business monopoly entity is irrelevant. A  
5 community is defined from the grassroots up; not  
6 imposed by what an outside agency puts down.

7 I'm echoing the sentiments of public  
8 officials as well as private citizens here. I'm going  
9 to reenforce and repeat some of them and maybe  
10 elaborate on a couple of. Number one -- and I'll just  
11 point out the results of a few things.

12 If you think about it, and think about it in  
13 terms of community and then look at this absurd  
14 diagram, you'll see the areas of connection between  
15 the peak area and the Manatee-Charlotte area. It's a  
16 little crisscross; it's a little point. It's a point  
17 on the map, as defined by Euclid, as an area having no  
18 dimensions.

19 There's absolutely no area of connection;  
20 logically, rationally or any other way. It's an  
21 artificial construct.

22 Polk was part of the 813 area code. It was  
23 shut off simply because it doesn't have quite as high  
24 a population density as Hillsborough County does.  
25 However, it's the northern half of the Polk area is

1 rapidly growing. More importantly, the Polk area has  
2 absolutely nothing to do in terms of its focus with  
3 the Charlotte, Manatee and Sarasota areas. Charlotte,  
4 Manatee and Sarasota are coastal communities. As  
5 Mac Horton, said we have a lot in common and that's  
6 because we're coastal communities. Tourism is a very,  
7 very large area. Retirement living. Businesses that  
8 are service businesses who service the retirement and  
9 the tourism industries. All of these things are  
10 related to the essence of your community, which was  
11 that we are a coastal community. So trying to take an  
12 area from way inland in the state and arbitrarily  
13 include it, it just doesn't make any sense.

14 I just might point out that I'm a member of  
15 the Englewood Executive Business Network. Most of our  
16 members are members also of the Rotary, the Chamber,  
17 and a number of other business organizations. Trying,  
18 with proposition No. 1, to divide the Englewood  
19 community area, would have a tremendous negative  
20 impact on most of our local businesses. As person  
21 after person has stated here, we service people in  
22 Sarasota as well as Charlotte County. The Englewood  
23 community is a unified community, and our  
24 representatives and our utilities need to recognize  
25 that.

1           The proposition No. 1 is not really a  
2 geographic split; it's a legal boundary split and it  
3 needs to be dropped forever.

4           One final point. And again I'm echoing  
5 something that was introduced by Commissioner Horton.  
6 We need to resolve this Sprint-GTE difference in  
7 service in this community area.

8           I live and do a lot of business on  
9 Cape Haze. I tried to get voice mail service. When  
10 Sprint took over United Telephone Company, which as  
11 many of you know, is known colloquially as "the  
12 Flintstone Telephone Company," they promised that they  
13 would bring their high technology to our area. As far  
14 as I'm concerned, they have not lived up to that  
15 promise.

16           I recently attempted to get voice mail  
17 service and I was told that the wonderful Sprint voice  
18 mail service is available to everybody in our area  
19 except Cape Haze residents. There we have an  
20 alternative service, which requires us to call in on a  
21 long distance charge -- and I'm sorry, if it's 25  
22 cents, that's a long distance charge, whether or not  
23 you have to dial the area code. If I have to pay  
24 extra for it you're treating me as if it's long  
25 distance.

1           And I said, okay, fine. I presume I'm going  
2 to get a special dial tone so I know when I have  
3 messages and when I have to call in. And they said,  
4 "No. We don't provide a special dial tone to people  
5 on Cape Haze. Only to people in the rest of Charlotte  
6 County." So now I have to dial in seven, eight, ten  
7 times a day to see whether or not I have messages.  
8 The toll charges just keep piling up.

9           So Sprint is treating us in this area in a  
10 completely different way. They are dividing Charlotte  
11 County. They are treating part of the county one way;  
12 part of the county another way. Cape Haze folks woke  
13 up a few years ago. The old land disputes were  
14 resolved. As a result of that drive down in the area.  
15 It's one of the most rapidly growing areas for  
16 development in one of the most rapidly growing  
17 counties in the country and you need to recognize  
18 that.

19           We absolutely, as Mac Horton said, need to,  
20 as part of this issue, resolve the problems and the  
21 differences, and if necessary, Sprint needs to sell  
22 out to GTE that portion of the area so that we all  
23 have the same telephone service. (Applause)

24           So in that sense, take proposition No. 1,  
25 throw it away. I endorse proposition No. 3. However,



1 what we need to do -- and I think I'd really like to  
2 see an alternative one where we had Manatee, Sarasota  
3 and Charlotte Counties all together. We are a unified  
4 community. Let's stay that way.

5 **MR. BARRETT:** Mr. Pomeroy.

6

- - - - -

7

**BRUCE POMEROY**

8 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

9

**DIRECT STATEMENT**

10

**MR. POMEROY:** Good morning. My name is

11

Bruce Pomeroy. I'm the past chairman of the Taxpayer

12

League of Charlotte County.

13

Back in 1995 there was an organized drive to

14

circulate a petition to petition the Public Service

15

Commission, after they closed off the regulatory

16

powers back in July of '95, that we in Charlotte

17

County were trapped between two telephone

18

Corporations: GTE and United-Sprint.

19

In October I had received correspondence

20

from Mr. Allen from United-Sprint, and from

21

Mr. Dobbins from the GTE. They were very concerned

22

about the rates that we pay in Charlotte County long

23

distance within our county to our governments, to our

24

stores, the whole nine, ten yards.

25

We see the dilemma that we're faced with

1 with the expansion of the telephone corporations, the  
2 new customers they are taking on board, and certainly  
3 it's about time that the telephone companies address  
4 rate changes as well.

5           It is very true. I live in Englewood east.  
6 Grove City, Englewood east are 474, 473, 475 and  
7 probably 460. I live in Charlotte County. I can call  
8 anyplace in Sarasota County with a flat rate of 25  
9 cents. But let me tell you, if I call my stores in  
10 Port Charlotte or Punta Gorda, it will be long  
11 distance rates.

12           However, GTE gave us five or six different  
13 options in which we can consider different optional  
14 plans. They did not give us a flat rate fee. And as  
15 I stand here I'll tell you right now United-Sprint  
16 said we're willing to work with GTE back in '95 to do  
17 something effectively for these long distance rates  
18 within our county.

19           Believe me when I tell you this: Not much  
20 was done. So here we are today talking about area  
21 code changes, but the root of the problem is that the  
22 telephone corporations in which they extend over here  
23 to Charlotte County line, GTE should sell out their  
24 interest to United-Sprint, if that's the way to go or  
25 vice versa, but it's high time that the residents,

1 Citizens of Florida, start talking to these telephone  
2 corporations, saying, "Look, you're expanding your  
3 company's services. You're cutting back on the  
4 services of repairs," and I think we all have seen  
5 that happen. "It's about time that you started doing  
6 something creative with your actual rates."

7           Now we have three nice people here today.  
8 I'd like them to take it back and say, "Look, in  
9 Charlotte County we'd like to extend the boundaries to  
10 the entire part of Charlotte County in this area  
11 code." Whatever the new area code will be.

12           We, in Englewood, do share many, many things  
13 between our communities because we are Englewood.  
14 Grove City is part of Englewood. The entire Cape Haze  
15 is part of Englewood. So it's high time that we  
16 become more realistic. And when the Public Service  
17 Commission said to us, in '95, "We are very  
18 sympathetic with your problems in the area," when they  
19 consented 25 cents Sarasota County flat rate. I think  
20 it's about time they say, "Well, look, you people in  
21 the telephone company, start doing something  
22 constructively for your people you service in the  
23 area."

24           So it's about time. We can take this whole  
25 packet here and I can show you a whole docket of

1 different information that came back from the Public  
2 Service Commission, from the telephone corporation.  
3 Here we are today and I believe the gentlemen who  
4 spoke from the homeowners group did make a point. If  
5 we're going to have more area codes we should consider  
6 it now rather than later down the road. But it's  
7 important that we maintain the integrity of Charlotte  
8 County, Sarasota County, and I hate to say it, Manatee  
9 County is included as well.

10 Any questions? From the Public Service  
11 Commission? Thank you.

12 **MR. BARRETT:** Harold Heil, you'll be on  
13 deck. You decline.

14 Giovanna Deveny, or something like that.  
15 You'll be following Jill Leah.

16 - - - - -

17 **JILL LEAH**

18 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

19 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

20 **MS. LEAH:** Good morning. I'm Jill Leah. I'm  
21 president of Highwave, Incorporated. We are a local  
22 Internet service provided located in Englewood in  
23 Sarasota County. Our customer base includes residents  
24 and businesses who can reach our service by dialing a  
25 local phone number. Currently this includes the

1 geographic area from Nokomis south to Placida,  
2 including the whole Cape Haze peninsula, and west to  
3 the Myakka River.

4           If the area code changes at the Sarasota  
5 Charlotte County line, this will have a negative  
6 impact on the perception of our service area. I  
7 realize that you said that the change will not be  
8 monetary for customers. However, the perception will  
9 be there that there is a division.

10           Regardless of whether or not the local  
11 calling area changes, the long distance perception  
12 will be there, and it will, in effect, our livelihood  
13 depends on that perception and it depends on the  
14 decision that's made by the Public Service Commission  
15 and GTE and Sprint.

16           I understand there's a need to make a change  
17 and I feel that it's not in the best interest of the  
18 community of Englewood to divide the area code at the  
19 county line. The local calling area, which is  
20 currently in effect in Englewood, should remain under  
21 a single area code. Of the alternatives that were  
22 suggested today, the two that best represent my  
23 preference would be Alternative No. 3. However, if at  
24 all possible, an additional alternative that would  
25 include Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte, even if they

1 are all under a new area code, would be my preference.

2 Thank you.

3 **MR. BARRETT:** Nancy Harper, you're on deck.

4 - - - - -

5 **GIOVANNA DEVENY**

6 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

7 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

8 **MS. DEVENY:** I'm Giovanna Deveny. I chair a  
9 coalition of neighborhood associations that's called  
10 South Venice 2010. You might wonder Venice, what are  
11 they doing here? Many of our almost 10,000 members  
12 have family, they have businesses in the Englewood  
13 area and are very sensitive to what happens down here.

14 I would humbly, respectfully request that  
15 the Public Service Commission do what so many people  
16 tell us all the time: Think outside the box. You  
17 have various plans here. I think given the tremendous  
18 growth going on in this area you have to think of  
19 other considerations, and I'll get into that shortly.

20 I just finished serving for three years on a  
21 multistakeholders group in Sarasota County. We looked  
22 at the next 50 years of growth in Sarasota County as  
23 well as growth in the adjoining counties, Manatee and  
24 Port Charlotte. Understanding what I do now, and if  
25 you all saw our local morning paper in Manatee County,

1 they are immediately planning for 10,000 more homes.  
2 In Sarasota County I know that the growth in south  
3 Sarasota County is tremendous. Charlotte County.  
4 You've heard from folks who live in Charlotte County  
5 tremendous growth there.

6           So when we say please ask them to think  
7 outside the box, instead of thinking in terms of three  
8 counties, think in terms of two, sarasota, Charlotte  
9 and I suggest that you give them the same area.

10           Sarasota County and Charlotte County are  
11 joined at the hip in the city of Englewood. The  
12 county line runs through the middle of that city. In  
13 our opinion, government should do everything possible  
14 to preserve the sense of community that Englewood  
15 enjoys, recognizing and appreciating the need to  
16 encourage a sense of community in the area, as you  
17 have heard this morning. Local governmental bodies  
18 have joined together and have been working together  
19 for years in interlocal agreement.

20           County Commissions have collaborate  
21 positively on funds for the building of roads. School  
22 boards have worked successfully on a reciprocal  
23 agreement for school attendance. Students attend  
24 Englewood Elementary School and Sarasota County  
25 school. They then attend Anjer (ph) Junior High and

1 Lemon Bay High School. Those are Charlotte County  
2 schools. This has been running smoothly for years.

3           The sense of community is further  
4 strengthened through afterschool and weekend school  
5 activities. These events include students from  
6 Sarasota County and Charlotte County. Patients from  
7 both Sarasota County and Charlotte County feel  
8 fortunate to have medical facilities so close by.  
9 Government has a responsibility to remove as many  
10 obstacles for residents in a time of need for health  
11 care. Overlays would place obstacles in the path of  
12 residents.

13           What I would suggest to you, and I'll have a  
14 copy of my remarks, but this part is off my sheet --  
15 our coalition of neighborhood associations now  
16 representing about 10,000 people, joined because we  
17 felt government wasn't sensitive to our needs.

18           In the Englewood area, the alliance has  
19 formed and you heard their speaker. Well, I'm  
20 suggesting to you folks to take back to the Public  
21 Service Commission is that we are -- the human beings  
22 are not people that you can geographically draw lines  
23 and say this is going to happen here, here and here.  
24 We are human beings. You've got to look at the human  
25 face and listen to what's happening to people in the



1 area and then rethink what it is you're doing and try  
2 to do what is in the best interest of those people.  
3 Because when you get down to what government is all  
4 about, government is supposed to protect the health,  
5 safety and welfare of the people of the country.  
6 That's all. All the rest of it is gingerbread or  
7 whatever the politicians want to put with it. Your  
8 basic goal is to protect the health, safety and  
9 welfare. So I'm suggesting our welfare, and perhaps  
10 our safety, is also involved in this. Picture  
11 yourself the partner of someone who has need of a  
12 doctor. Or think of yourself as a school secretary  
13 who must call home because an elementary school child  
14 has become ill at school. In a time of stress,  
15 confusion of numbers could complicate reaching people.  
16 Consider these the dialing of seven numbers. Now  
17 contemplate dialing ten.

18           Sarasota County and Charlotte Counties are  
19 fortunate that we have not been afflicted by the  
20 problems of the very large counties that have few  
21 choices for dealing with monumental problems brought  
22 on by very large populations. We can preserve our  
23 sense of community for a while yet.

24           Please help us to do that. We respectfully  
25 request that you do all in your power to permit

1 Sarasota County and Charlotte County to operate under  
2 the same area code.

3 Thank you.

4 **MR. BARRETT:** I'm down to our last speaker  
5 that has indicated they'd like to come forward and  
6 make comments. Is there anyone in the audience that  
7 did not indicate so when they signed in but would like  
8 to add something to the discussion? Okay. If you'll  
9 come on up, be on deck. Our next signed in speaker is  
10 Nancy Harper.

11 - - - - -

12 **NANCY HARPER**

13 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

14 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

15 **MS. HARPER:** My name is Nancy Harper. I'm  
16 the person at the elementary school that does do the  
17 calling for children that are not in attendance. My  
18 school's boundaries include both Sarasota County and  
19 Charlotte County. There is a pocket of Charlotte  
20 County children that are districted to my school in  
21 Sarasota County. As of February 26th, 78 children  
22 lived in Charlotte County. They are less than two  
23 miles in some points to our school. They could  
24 probably walk to school quicker than they can remember  
25 10 digits.

1           You are requiring -- one of the most  
2 difficult things in the world is a child learning  
3 their phone number. Now you're asking those four year  
4 olds in preschool, the five year olds in kindergarten  
5 to remember ten digits. That is even a little bit  
6 more mind boggling than the senior citizens  
7 remembering 10 digits.

8           If we have emergencies -- in the classroom a  
9 child is injured or very, very sick, whoever is on  
10 call -- if it is a substitute in the office, they may  
11 not realize that, "Oh, excuse me. I have to call that  
12 person at work in Charlotte County, and isn't there  
13 three extra numbers?" In the meantime, a child could  
14 go into a diabetic coma. And we need to keep  
15 Englewood together.

16           I have been a registrar for 15 years. I was  
17 the only elementary school in this town. So I dealt  
18 with the Sarasota County students, Charlotte County  
19 students, and Boca Grande's Lee County students. I  
20 know what the paperwork and the involvement is being  
21 combined.

22           L.A. Anjer (ph) Middle School represents  
23 students in our community residents of both county --  
24 all three counties, excuse me. The same with Lemon  
25 Bay High School. And if not for just the businesses

1 and the convenience, Englewood has been so unique,  
2 let's still keep us together for the sake of the  
3 children.

4 Thank you.

5 **MR. BARRETT:** Taylor Meals.

6 - - - - -

7 **TAYLOR MEALS**

8 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

9 **DIRECT STATEMENT**

10 **MR. MEALS:** My name is Taylor Meals. I'm a  
11 new resident to Englewood within the past year. And  
12 when I came to Englewood I came to Englewood; I didn't  
13 come to Charlotte County and I didn't come to Sarasota  
14 County.

15 And I'm glad that the Public Service  
16 Commission had an opportunity to come here, as well as  
17 the phone companies. And I think you've found on your  
18 way into Englewood, it doesn't matter if you came from  
19 the north, if you came from the east, or you came from  
20 the south, but to get here you came on a two-lane  
21 road, and then somewhere when you got to the end of  
22 that two-lane road, it said "Welcome to Englewood."  
23 So it doesn't matter when you leave here today, if you  
24 go by a different route, you're going to leave by a  
25 two-lane road until you get to Port Charlotte, you get

1 out to the freeway, or you get up to freeway. At the  
2 end of this two-lane road you've got Englewood.  
3 Englewood is a community. It's not a community that  
4 says "Welcome to Englewood, Charlotte County" or  
5 "Welcome to Englewood, Sarasota County." It says  
6 "Welcome to Englewood." Englewood is a total  
7 community.

8 I have three children. I have a nine year  
9 old that goes to school at the elementary school.  
10 Ms. Harper -- or my daughter goes to their school, at  
11 the elementary school in Sarasota County. I have a 13  
12 year old that goes to the middle school in Charlotte  
13 County. My son goes to school at the high school in  
14 Charlotte County. To me, as a resident of Englewood,  
15 the county lines don't mean anything. I think it  
16 would be a disaster for this community if we were to  
17 have two separate phone -- two different area codes in  
18 this small community. I think that you should give it  
19 consideration to look at where Englewood is, what  
20 Englewood is and keep it together under one area code.  
21 Thank you.

22 **MS. SHELFER:** You all will be tired of me  
23 before the day is over.

24 There's two comments that I want to make.  
25 One was -- and I'm horrible with names, but the

1 gentlemen was referring to \$.25 plans, ECS as being  
2 toll. Because there's a charge associated with it, in  
3 the eyes of some it may appear to be toll. But if you  
4 are actually paying toll, you will realize there's a  
5 substantial difference from paying by the minute than  
6 paying the flat rate charge. There are people all  
7 over the state I can tell you, who would do most  
8 anything they could to be able to have the \$.25 plan.

9           The second thing I wanted to state, just as  
10 a comment, as a telephone holder, too, I have  
11 BellSouth and I can't get on voice mail, too, so I  
12 sympathize.

13           **MR. BARRETT:** Charles Rehwinkel, Sprint.  
14 Before we move on, one more call. Is there anyone  
15 else that would like to say anything? Okay. Go  
16 ahead, Charles.

17           - - - - -

18           **CHARLES REHWINKEL**

19 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

20           **DIRECT STATEMENT**

21           **MR. REHWINKEL:** Thank you. My name is  
22 Charles Rehwinkel. I'm an attorney for Sprint,  
23 representing the company in the three dockets that  
24 you've heard about today.

25           I really do appreciate the effort that the

1 community has extended to the parties and to the  
2 Commission to come down and see Englewood. I've never  
3 been here. I grew up in North Florida but I was born  
4 in Fort Myers, but this is one part of the state I've  
5 never been to and I'm glad to be here.

6 I think what you've heard today demonstrates  
7 that what happens with regard to this area will be  
8 most influential in how the area code relief plan is  
9 ultimately designed by the Public Service Commission.  
10 And in that regard, we think this strongly supports  
11 consolidating all of the dockets and making all of the  
12 decisions at one time. We do say, as the telephone  
13 company that serves 2 million customers throughout  
14 Florida and a large portion of the customers in the  
15 existing 941 area, that between Sprint and GTE we  
16 serve an a million and a half access lines. Over  
17 a million customers in this area. And the interests  
18 of all of these customers are what we must take into  
19 consideration, and what the Public Service Commission  
20 must take into consideration.

21 And certainly the issues you have raised  
22 are -- they are different than the average customers'  
23 concerns that live, say, in the middle of an area and  
24 they won't be affected about where you draw a line.  
25 So you raise significant concerns.

1           But I would just like to say we're going to  
2 go down to Fort Myers on the 9th to continue the  
3 hearing process. And we haven't heard from Lee County  
4 for whatever reason. No one showed up at the Lee  
5 County hearing. And sometimes it's based on the way  
6 they think the plan is going to go. Sometimes it's  
7 base on what notice or advertisement they got of the  
8 meeting, but I don't believe we're going to go and  
9 hear from no one again, especially after the complaint  
10 that we got that started this whole docket.

11           So what I'm saying is that when all is said  
12 and done, the Commission will have to hear from other  
13 interests, other geographic concerns that people have.  
14 People may come up with other plans based on the way  
15 they'd like it to look relative to Lee County.

16           So we are neutral on what plan comes up  
17 except for when there are technical or cost  
18 considerations that are insurmountable. And we will  
19 bring those up to the Commission in the hearing  
20 process that take place. We have AL witness that is  
21 testifying. He's an expert in the engineering and the  
22 area code issues, and I know GTE has an expert as well  
23 testifying.

24           We would like to say that the three area  
25 code solutions which I think is Alternative 4 that



1 we've heard about, it does have some appeal with  
2 respect to the relief time. But we believe that it  
3 would be relatively imprudent to go forward with a  
4 docket and a decision that would come out in July,  
5 that we would submit to the North American Numbering  
6 Plan Administrator, and they would say we can't do  
7 this.

8           You've heard about the scarcity of codes  
9 through all 50 states. The chance that they would  
10 give us a third code to accomplish an optimal result  
11 is pretty low. And if we get down the road in the  
12 hearing process and find out that we have been  
13 rebuffed and have to start all over again, we will  
14 have a severe problem. Because the code administrator  
15 has said there's an extraordinary jeopardy in this  
16 area, which means that their existing projections are  
17 not going to last.

18           I think you heard that from the Commission  
19 Staff. That's a practical concern that we have. We  
20 are not close to that solution but we do not want that  
21 solution to be sought and others foregone, and then we  
22 find ourselves in a impossible situation. Because,  
23 like I said, two companies that are here today have to  
24 serve the interests of a million and a half access  
25 lines and over a million customers.

1           So that's all I have. Thank you.

2           **MS. MCKINNEY:** Yes, Commissioner.

3           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I understand that  
4 Pinellas -- that they submit an area code just for  
5 Pinellas County, and if we're suggesting Sarasota and  
6 Charlotte, why would it be so hard to get a new code  
7 when that was done, what, within the last two years?

8           **MS. MCKINNEY:** The area code and what's  
9 actually going to take place is going to be based on  
10 the hearing and the evidence that's presented. At  
11 this time we can't tell you exactly what's going to  
12 happen and what's not. It's going to be based on the  
13 evidence, the witnesses and what comes out and then  
14 the Commissioners there make a decision.

15           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I guess my concern is  
16 I have been hearing that new area codes are really  
17 hard to get; one in a million chance. But if I -- and  
18 is it correct that another county got one just for the  
19 county?

20           **MS. MCKINNEY:** That's Brevard County, I  
21 think that's what you're talking --

22           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** No, Pinellas.

23           **MS. MCKINNEY:** I wasn't aware of Pinellas.

24           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I think we want to  
25 make sure that we get the same fair treatment and

1 we'll be pursuing on April 8th putting a lot more on  
2 the record. But I think that to say that you can't  
3 get new area codes, then one county got one recently,  
4 isn't quite kosher.

5 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Okay.

6 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I'd like to say that  
7 I've got -- (Unintelligible)

8 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I didn't participate  
9 in it either, but I'm aware of, I think, what  
10 happened. Really, that was an area code split of 813,  
11 okay. And based on the -- well really, the companies,  
12 all these code-holders, cellular code providers, local  
13 phone company in this case -- just reviewed, permitted  
14 an overlay was the most efficient use of the codes in  
15 the longest exhaust period.

16 The Commission determined, after a hearing  
17 process, that there would be a split. And a split  
18 would be along a geographic boundary. There was only  
19 one code utilized, and it was for not just Pinellas,  
20 but Pinellas and western Pasco County. And I've heard  
21 a number of the customers here are concerned about not  
22 having a Charlotte County split, and I truly  
23 understand that. You need to think about, or,  
24 hopefully, be thankful that's what comes out of this;  
25 just one area code.

1           Poor Pasco County has three area codes, and  
2 for better or worse -- and I don't know of any severe  
3 or major problems. I haven't heard the feedback from  
4 them. But it's not just one area code for Pinellas,  
5 it was a geographic split that was determined and  
6 based on the code utilization and the customer -- the  
7 line split between western Pasco and Pinellas. That's  
8 how the code is assigned.

9           **MS. SHELFER:** It was a new code.

10           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** It was one new code.  
11 A geographic split.

12           **MS. SHELFER:** It ended up that it was a  
13 geographic split. There was going to be a new code  
14 assigned anyway, the initial request was that it be  
15 (Unintelligible) -- a code is common one way or the  
16 other. Just like here. There's going to be a new  
17 area code. It's just a matter of how it's going to be  
18 (Unintelligible). So that's what happened with  
19 Pinellas. Instead of being on the overlay they ended  
20 up going the geographic split; Hillsborough, 813 kept,  
21 Pinellas got the new.

22           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** And western Pasco.

23           **MS. SHELFER:** Pasco -- I'll tell you that I  
24 spoke to someone about Volusia County. There's a city  
25 in Volusia County that is split by two telephone

1 companies, two area codes -- I mean -- a LATA, two  
2 companies, and they have three area codes to call into  
3 the city. So there are places that are worse off. So  
4 unfortunately, you know, that's only --

5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I appreciate that. I  
6 guess it doesn't make it right because we have an  
7 opportunity --

8 **MS. SHELFER:** No. No. (Simultaneous  
9 conversation)

10 **MS. SHELFER:** I hope that anything that we  
11 have been able to explain is that we will do whatever  
12 we can do. But there are limitations. But you guys  
13 have given us lots and lots of information and through  
14 the hearing process, are going to do issue ID on this.  
15 You're idea of the area code and your proposal to want  
16 to do Manatee, Charlotte and Sarasota can be something  
17 that addresses the issue identification, which is the  
18 next step.

19 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** One follow-up to the  
20 Commissioners' questions. The area codes -- is give  
21 alternatives to -- Alternative 3  
22 (Unintelligible-shuffling of papers in mike) You  
23 would be planning that about now.

24 **MS. SHELFER:** Start planning one year after  
25 we're notified of it. (Unintelligible)

1           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Then you have to come  
2 back for another split, unfortunately, two years --

3           **MS. SHELFER:** Projections were correct --

4           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** It may be sooner  
5 because -- (Simultaneous conversation)

6           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I guess my point is  
7 they are very scarce area codes; area codes that are  
8 going to exhaust in 2007, we're going to be back  
9 taking the area codes from that pot in three or four  
10 years anyway if Alternative 3 is selected. (Shuffling  
11 of papers) Why not do it now. Give us two -- break  
12 up this area --

13           **MS. SHELFER:** I don't think they'll do it.  
14 There's nothing to say that's not the way the question  
15 will -- (Background noise interference) It's not  
16 our --

17           **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Right.

18           **MS. SHELFER:** That's a federal decision. I  
19 can just tell you historically that they have --  
20 especially now that they won't. (Unintelligible)

21           As far as possible, but through processes  
22 like this, it's often difficult because -- it's like  
23 the committee; once you see the people and you hear  
24 the stories, you can link the communities together.  
25 And that's what happened in 407. Once you hear the

1 stories, once the Commissioners get a geographic foot  
2 with an overlay we've never done that anywhere in the  
3 state that I -- and what Mr. --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We didn't hear any of  
5 that.

6 MS. SHELFER: Okay. Sorry.

7 I forgot what I was saying.

8 MS. MCKINNEY: Talking about 407.

9 MS. SHELFER: I was addressing whatever we  
10 looked at 407, we ended up doing an overlay with a  
11 geographic split. And the result of that was from  
12 customer testimony.

13 Brevard County put on an excellent case  
14 where they were unique and not linked to Orlando as  
15 all of the surrounding communities and counties are.  
16 I mean, they were ready to go at it on who got linked  
17 to Orlando. The final decision was they all were. It  
18 was based on the overlay and Brevard County ended up  
19 with their own area code.

20 The exhaust for Brevard, I believe, sits at  
21 about eight years, Levent? But because we did it that  
22 way, it reduced the life of Orlando down to about 4.2,  
23 I believe, it sits at now. So what the Commission  
24 looks at where maybe one area has a longer exhaust, we  
25 wished we could do them all at that five, six, seven

1 and eight years. Sometimes that's not possible. But  
2 NANPA does request that we do it for at least five.

3 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Brevard didn't get  
4 their own area code. They share it with the rest.

5 **MS. SHELFER:** Yeah. Yeah. I'm sorry. Let  
6 me clarify that. They did.

7 The 321 is not just Brevard. The overlay --  
8 what happens with Brevard is they don't have to do  
9 the overlay. They are giving up all their 407 codes.  
10 407 is going to go into the Orlando area. The  
11 overlay, which is also 321, will go over the remaining  
12 portion of Orlando and Brevard, will just have 7-digit  
13 dialing and only have 321 so they didn't get their own  
14 area code. It was an overlay with a geographic split.  
15 When we get in issue ID we can discuss all of the  
16 alternatives that can be done through this proceeding.

17 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Yes, Commissioner.

18 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I want to talk about  
19 Alternative 4 for just a second. Whoever answer this  
20 question, please do.

21 Alternative 4 is a continuation, I'm  
22 assuming, of Alternate 3, so that we have the same  
23 split with an overlay. Okay. You're going to have a  
24 split; you've got two numbers. If I understand the  
25 overlay at all, it means you have a third number. If



1 I'm correct what we're all saying is instead of using  
2 those three numbers that way, folks, let's split this  
3 up into three things and use those same three numbers.  
4 I think that's what we're all saying. So we don't  
5 have a problem with a mysterious number out there that  
6 doesn't exist. You're telling us in Alternate 4 it  
7 does.

8 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Thank you.

9 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I guess I made a  
10 comment. That's what we're seeing. Got the  
11 possibility of three numbers. Split this thing up  
12 three ways and get the most bang for our bucks.

13 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Yes, ma'am.

14 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** About that hearing  
15 you're talking about, are the attendees at the hearing  
16 invited people? Are those only --

17 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Ma'am, you're welcome to  
18 come. Everybody is welcome to come.

19 The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 and 6:00  
20 on April the 8th. They are called service hearings.  
21 Those are hearings where the Commissioners will be  
22 there and listen to Floridians tell them specifically  
23 what their opinion is on the issues that and that's in  
24 Sarasota. And I'm telling you about the Sarasota one  
25 because it's closest. But if you look at the Special

1 Report everybody, in the far page in the corner on the  
2 side it has the hearing dates and times, and everybody  
3 is welcome to come. A service hearing is where the  
4 Commissioners listen to Floridians about what you  
5 think about pertaining to the issues.

6 Yes, sir.

7 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** At today's  
8 presentation, what is your feeling, gut feeling, as to  
9 the things you have heard at this meeting? How do you  
10 think it's going to turn out for our community?

11 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Sir, I can't give you an  
12 answer as to that. (Laughter)

13 No, there's a reason why. Because a  
14 decision will be made by all of the Commissioners  
15 here. All of the evidence that's presented. We  
16 haven't had April 9th and April 8th yet so we haven't  
17 heard what everybody said. But what each of you have  
18 said today will be part of what takes place in that  
19 hearing. If the dockets are consolidated it will  
20 become one. Yes, ma'am.

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** You can write and  
22 send in --

23 **MS. MCKINNEY:** Yes. We have information on  
24 here how you can contact us in other ways. Tell your  
25 friends. Please feel free.

1 I have about 300 letters, like I told you,  
2 from the Englewood community. I don't have a problem.  
3 I tried to respond to everybody, but everybody didn't  
4 send me their address because some of them were  
5 e-mails and it was kept out. We don't have a problem  
6 with that. That's why we're here. We want to know  
7 what you think. And it's very important to the  
8 Commissioners how consumers feel about these issues.

9 I'd like to thank everybody for their  
10 comments and for coming out. I hope that we were  
11 helpful as much as you were toward us with your  
12 comments. We really appreciate it because it helps us  
13 informing the Commissioners as to what's going on.

14 Again, spread the word about the hearings.  
15 We want everybody to come out. We're going to take a  
16 ten-minute break -- excuse me we're going to take a  
17 five-minute break. They are going to kick us out of  
18 the auditorium because somebody else is scheduled.

19 However, we're having an issue  
20 identification and I'm going to go over the petitions  
21 for this record, 990184, which is the Englewood case.  
22 We need Sprint, a representative from Sprint. GTE and  
23 the Chamber to stay, as well as the Water District.  
24 Did he leave? He's gone, unfortunately. Anybody else  
25 is welcome to stay and watch. And Charlotte County

1 and Sarasota County, we know that you've intervened.  
2 Commissioners, we'd also like you to stay, with your  
3 attorneys.

4           An issue identification is when Staff meets  
5 with the actual parties of record -- and your  
6 Commissioners have intervened -- that's a legal  
7 term -- to be a party of record where they could  
8 actually talk and put evidence in and represent you,  
9 Englewood. So issue identification is when we're  
10 going to sit around this table right here, decide what  
11 the issues are pertaining to your case that will go  
12 all the way to hearing and that's what we'll be  
13 dealing with the hearing. Please stay and watch.  
14 Won't take that long. But we're going to take a  
15 five-minute break before we get started.

16           **MS. SHELFER:** I'm going to do a follow up  
17 just because I'm a nonlawyer here. Even though you  
18 haven't testified, this is a workshop and everything  
19 that you've said we will consider. I encourage you to  
20 come and state it again at the hearing. You will be  
21 sworn in. It's your opportunity as the public to talk  
22 directly to the Commissioners. So please come to the  
23 Sarasota ones.

24           (Tape ends here.)

25

- - - -

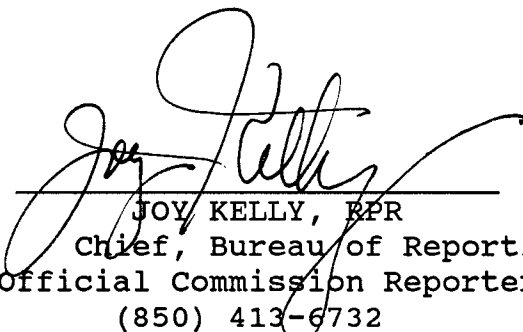
1 STATE OF FLORIDA)  
2 COUNTY OF LEON )

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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

5 Do hereby certify that I stenographically  
6 transcribed the said proceedings from tape recordings  
7 delivered to me by Commission Staff.

8 DATED this 6th day of April, 1999.

9  
10   
11 JOY KELLY, RPR  
12 Chief, Bureau of Reporting  
13 Official Commission Reporter  
14 (850) 413-6732  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25