

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: March 29, 2001
TO: Blanca Bayo, Director of Records and Reporting
FROM: Bob Casey, Regulatory Analyst Supervisor, Division of Competitive Services *BC*
RE: Docket No. 000604-TL, Area Code Relief for the 941 NPA

Please place the attached letter from Representative Jerry Paul in the above official docket file. Thank You.

- APP _____
- CAF _____
- CMP _____
- COM _____
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- SEC 1
- SER _____
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Florida House of Representatives

COMMISSION OF
COMPETITIVE SERVICES

Jerry Paul
Deputy Majority Whip
Representative, District 71

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March 26, 2001

Honorable Leon Jacobs, Chairman
Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RE: Docket #000604-TL, Area Code Relief for the 941 Area Code

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Thank you for the attached letter dated December 27, 2000 regarding the above referenced matter. As the State Representative for much of the area affected by the potential relief plans for the 941 area code, I ask that you please consider the following comments.

Proposed relief plan **alternative #4 "geographic split-Punta Gorda North"** is the most feasible and represents the one plan with the least detrimental economic impact on our area communities. I have engaged in comprehensive discussions and meetings with many individuals and organizations within our community who concur.

Area code alterations have the potential to impact our area to an even greater extent than the traditional impacts on other areas. This is because we have communities that *function* as towns but are not incorporated. One such community, for example, Englewood, is already split by a county line. For years this has caused confusion regarding services divided between two counties.

Compounding the problem, Englewood and Port Charlotte (another unincorporated community within my District) are split by State House District boundaries that create a scenario whereby portions of these communities are represented by legislators of other very remote and distant districts.

Also, our community is split by the Myaaka River, which causes non-local people to assume that there is a natural boundary between Port Charlotte and Englewood. In fact, Englewood and Port Charlotte are very much a part of the Charlotte County community.

Further dividing our communities with area code boundaries would create an additional difficulty and discord that would go far beyond mere inconvenience. It is absolutely imperative that a single area code serve Port Charlotte, Englewood (including the Sarasota County and Charlotte County portions of Englewood), North Port, and the Cape Haze peninsula communities Rotonda, Cape Haze, Placida and Boca Grande.

Honorable Leon Jacobs, Chairman
March 26, 2001
Page Two

We must prevent a division between Charlotte and Sarasota County. If Charlotte County must be separated from a bordering county, the most logical separation would be between Charlotte County and Lee County.

I qualify this with one extremely important distinction. Gasparilla Island and the community of Boca Grande, Florida is divided by the county line between Charlotte and Lee County. It is critical that we ensure that the area code boundary does not divide the island (as does the county line). The most logical solution would be for alternative #4 to include an exception whereby all of **Gasparilla Island** remains in the **941 area code district along with Charlotte County** which is the County from which the sole access to the island exists via the Boca Grande Causeway extending from Charlotte County's Cape Haze Peninsula.

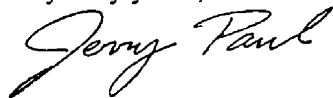
This is a **PRIORITY** issue for my constituents and me. I will make myself and my office staff imminently available to discuss these matters.

I will look forward to continued discussions with you and other commissioners regarding this matter. I will continue to meet with Beth Salak who has been very helpful. Our community will also look forward to the public hearings you have scheduled for May 23rd (Sarasota County) and May 24th (Murdock/Charlotte County).

Again, please implement "**alternative #4: Geographic Split – Punta Gorda North**". Please contact me at your earliest convenience to confirm receipt of this communication and to further discuss these matters.

I cannot overstate how pleased I am that the PSC (and especially you) have been so responsive to me on these issues. On behalf of our community, I sincerely thank you.

Very truly yours,



Rep. Jerry Paul
District 71

cc: Beth Salak, Assistant Director, Division of Competitive Services

Attachment

JP:jh

Distribution:

Honorable Adam Cummings, Chairman, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners

Honorable Dave Mills, Chairman, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners

Lang Capasso, President, Englewood Chamber of Commerce

Pat Comber, President, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

Don Carroll

Dr. Bill Coy, Chair, Rotonda Property Owner's Association

Betty Williams, Charlotte County Office of Economic Development

Misty Nabers, Gasparilla Island Conservation and Independent Association

John Fellin, Englewood Planning Advisory Board

STATE OF FLORIDA

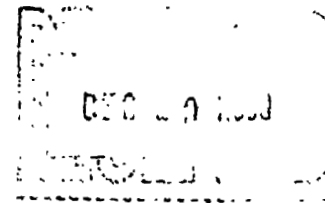
LETTER DELIVERED
BY COURIER



CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
(850) 413-6018

Public Service Commission

December 27, 2000



Englewood Chamber of Commerce
601 South Indian Avenue
Englewood, FL 34223

Re: Docket No. 000604-TL, Area Code Relief for the 941 Area Code

Dear Madam or Sir:

As you may be aware, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), which is the organization responsible for the assignment of telephone numbers and area codes in the United States, hosted a meeting of telecommunications industry officials in Fort Myers, Florida, on July 11, 2000. At that meeting, several relief plans for the 941 area code were discussed. NANPA's projected exhaust date for the 941 area code is the first quarter of 2003, which was also the lifespan outlined in Florida Public Service Commission Order PSC-99-1066-FOF-TL, issued May 25, 1999, during the last 941 area code relief docket. Although the projected exhaust date is more than two years away, initial planning must be started to ensure the availability of phone numbers.

Because some of your constituents would be affected by this area code relief process, we want to keep you informed about the relief plan alternatives presented at the industry meeting. (Maps displaying each of the alternatives may be viewed on the PSC's Internet Web site at www.psc.state.fl.us/industry/telecom/areacode/areacode.html. You may also have copies mailed to you by calling the PSC at 1-800-342-3552.)

The four proposed relief plan alternatives are as follows:

1) **Distributed Overlay** — A new area code would be assigned to the same geographic area as the existing 941 area code in Southwest Florida. Existing customers would retain the 941 area code; however, once the 941 area code is exhausted (in other words, once the available supply of phone numbers in the 941 area code is used up), all new phone numbers in the area would be assigned to the overlay area code. This would necessitate ten-digit local dialing by all customers, but would not affect customers' calling rates. This alternative would provide an estimated area code life of eight years.

2) **Geographic Split - Local Access and Transport Area (LATA)** — A geographic split is the process of dividing an area code, usually with one geographic area keeping the original area code and the other area receiving a new area code. Under this plan, the split boundary line would run along the LATA line between the Tampa LATA and the Fort Myers LATA. (A LATA is a geographic service boundary that defines the territory of a telephone exchange service.) Customers in both area codes would have seven-digit dialing for all local calls. This alternative would provide an estimated area code life of ten years for Area A and six years for Area B, as shown on the map.

3) **Geographic Split - Punta Gorda South** — The split boundary line would run along the boundary between the Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte local calling areas. Again, seven-digit dialing would remain for

Englewood Chamber of Commerce
December 27, 2000
Page 2

all local calls. This alternative would provide an estimated area code life of seven years for Area A and nine years for Area B, as shown on the map.

4) Geographic Split - Punta Gorda North — The split boundary line would run along the boundary between the Punta Gorda and North Fort Myers local calling areas. (This line coincides with the Lee and Collier County boundaries.) Once more, seven-digit dialing would remain for all local calls. This alternative would provide an estimated area code life of seven years for Area A and ten years for Area B, as shown on the map.

At the July 11, 2000, industry meeting, an industry consensus was reached recommending Alternative #1, an all-services distributed overlay relief plan. In the event the PSC does not adopt an overlay, the industry recommends that Alternative #4, a geographic split boundary line that runs along the boundary between the Punta Gorda and North Fort Myers local calling areas, be approved. The industry eliminated from consideration both Alternative #2 (because the dividing boundary line would split certain communities of interest and county lines) and Alternative #3 (because it would divide Extended Area Service [EAS] local calling areas as well as county boundaries).

The PSC is not bound by these industry recommendations and can consider other possible relief plans that may be presented during, or as a result of, upcoming customer service hearings. The PSC has scheduled five customer service hearings to solicit input from affected customers:

May 23, 2001	Bradenton, Florida (Manatee County)	Noon-2 p.m.
May 23, 2001	Sarasota, Florida (Sarasota County)	6 p.m.-8 p.m.
May 24, 2001	Murdoch, Florida (Charlotte County)	Noon-2 p.m.
May 24, 2001	Naples, Florida (Collier County)	6 p.m.-8 p.m.
May 25, 2001	Fort Myers, Florida (Lee County)	Noon-2 p.m.

These times were chosen to solicit the maximum amount of input from your constituents regarding the proposed relief plans. Your comments and input regarding these proposed plans would be welcome and appreciated. If you have any questions on these plans, you may contact the PSC's Cheryl Bulcova Banks at (850) 413-6642, Bob Casey at (850) 413-6974, or Levent Ileri at (850) 413-6362. In addition to the above customer service hearings, Commission staff will be available if you would like to meet and discuss these relief plan alternatives.

Sincerely,

J. Terry Deason
Chairman