

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 000604-TL

In the Matter of:
REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF
PROPOSED NUMBERING PLAN
RELIEF FOR THE 941 AREA
CODE.



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PROCEEDINGS: PALMETTO, FLORIDA SERVICE HEARING

BEFORE: CHAIRMAN E. LEON JACOBS, JR.
COMMISSIONER J. TERRY DEASON
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL A. PALECKI

DATE: Wednesday, May 23, 2001

TIME: Commenced at 12:02 p.m.
Concluded at 1:04 p.m.

PLACE: Manatee County Department of Agriculture
Rogers Auditorium
1303 17th Street West
Palmetto, Florida

REPORTED BY: KORETTA E. STANFORD, RPR
Official FPSC Reporter

1 APPEARANCES:

2 THOMAS FOLEY, NeuStar, Inc., NPA Relief Planner,
3 1120 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 550, Washington, DC 20005,
4 appearing on behalf of the North American Numbering Plan
5 Administration.

6 SUSAN MASTERTON and SANDY KHAZRAEE, 1313 Blairstone,
7 Tallahassee, Florida 32316, appearing on behalf of Sprint.

8 EARL POUCHER, Office of Public Counsel, 111 W. Madison,
9 Suite 812, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, appearing on behalf of
10 the public.

11 C. LEE FORDHAM, Florida Public Service
12 Commission, Division of Legal Services, 2540 Shumard
13 Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870,
14 appearing on behalf of the Commission Staff.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Good morning. We'd like to call
3 this customer hearing to order. My name is Leon Jacobs. I'm
4 the Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission, and
5 we're here today on the matter of a request for review of the
6 proposed numbering relief for the 941 area code.

7 First of all, before I begin, let me introduce my
8 colleagues. To my right is Commissioner Terry Deason, and to
9 my left is Commissioner Michael Palecki. We'll be a panel of
10 the Commission that will hear the case today. There are
11 several other people who I'd like for you to understand and
12 know who they are.

13 We have Commission Staff here who are, essentially,
14 going to be collecting much of the information that you're
15 going to give us today, and they're going to be considering it
16 in their analysis of any proposed relief for this area code.
17 We have Mr. Earl Poucher from the Office of the Public Counsel.
18 The Office of the Public Counsel represents consumers before
19 the Commission, and he will also be coordinating the testimony
20 of any customers, actually just calling you up as you come
21 forward. We also have with us today Mr. Thomas Foley with the
22 NPA. That is an independent organization that actually handles
23 much of the administration of the numbering resources around
24 the country.

25 Now, the purpose of our meeting here today is to take

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1 consumer input on what you see of the alternatives. And if you
2 haven't received a copy of the report, that's in the back, you
3 may want to get a copy of that, because in there, there are
4 some alternatives. Let me just back up for a moment, kind of
5 give you an update on how the process has evolved thus far.

6 Normally, how this works is, as I indicated, the NPA
7 keeps track of numbering resources that are available
8 throughout the country and also, of course, in Florida. And
9 they meet periodically to determine what the status of those
10 resources are.

11 And at a time when it appears that numbering
12 resources may be coming to some level of exhaust, there's a
13 process that is invoked by which we begin to explore options
14 for relief; in other words, we hope to never get to a point
15 where we actually exhaust an area code resource, because that
16 planning process begins early on, and we are now in a part of
17 that early planning process to explore potential relief to
18 avoid the actual exhaust of numbering resources.

19 The way we're going to proceed today is we're going
20 to, first of all, have a statement and a presentation from
21 Mr. Foley, and then we will ask any consumers who'd like to
22 give a statement to us today to come up and give us that
23 statement, and you may give your personal views at that point
24 and time.

25 Now, if you're uncomfortable in actually getting up

1 and speaking to the microphone, there's no problem. If you
2 have comments that you'd like to offer, we still would like to
3 get those comments. Feel free to take one of those reports
4 with you, and it has the contact information on it, and you can
5 send us your written comments; we'd like to have those, and
6 maybe they'll be included in our analysis as it moves forward.

7 And with that -- is there anything else? I'd like to
8 have counsel read the notice for our meeting today.

9 MR. FORDHAM: Pursuant to notice published May 3rd,
10 2001, this time and place has been set for public hearing in
11 docket number 000604-TL, request for review of proposed
12 numbering plan relief for the 941 area code for the purposes
13 set forth in the notice.

14 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: And we'll take appearances.

15 MR. POUCHER: Earl Poucher for the Office of Public
16 Counsel.

17 MR. FORDHAM: Lee Fordham representing the legal
18 section of the Florida Public Service Commission.

19 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Very well. And so we'll begin now.
20 We'll ask Mr. Foley to come forward.

21 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
22 Commissioners. Can you all hear me? I don't have a
23 microphone. I usually kind of talk pretty loud, so it doesn't
24 usually bother anybody.

25 As Commissioner Jacobs said, my name is Tom Foley.

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1 I'm an NPA relief planner for the North American Numbering Plan
2 Administration, and it is my job to review and evaluate certain
3 things within the area codes in Florida.

4 Basically, what NANPA is, is back in July of '95 the
5 Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, basically took some
6 important steps to promote competition. And one of those steps
7 was they formed the North American Numbering Council which is
8 the oversight group, basically, for the numbering
9 administration.

10 Lockheed Martin IMS was named the North American
11 Numbering Plan Administrator back in '97, okay? Subsequent to
12 that, because of some legal things, North American Numbering
13 Plan Administration was spun off into a new company called
14 NeuStar, Incorporated. I'm an employee of NeuStar, and I
15 represent the North American Numbering Plan Administration.

16 What our basic responsibilities that affect today's
17 proceedings are is we're the relief coordinator. We determine
18 the need for and identify the timing of any NPA relief. The
19 relief planner takes the lead to prepare several options, which
20 you will see in a few minutes, for each NPA projected to
21 exhaust, and we convened a meeting. We did this earlier this
22 year, and we compiled and filed the documents necessary with
23 the Florida Public Service Commission indicating the status of
24 the industry consensus as to what the relief alternative should
25 be.

1 And once we receive an order from the Commission, we
2 coordinate the initial industry activities for implementation.
3 The different types of relief that are available currently are
4 geographic split. It's basically the traditional method. This
5 area underwent a split with 863 a few years ago, and that's
6 basically where new NPA is added to a geographic area.

7 Another alternative is an overlay, and that's where
8 one or more NPAs serve the same geographic area.

9 Another method that's not used too often is a
10 boundary realignment, where the boundary is realigned to gain
11 some useful resources from an adjacent area code. The reason
12 that this isn't used very much is a lot of times there are
13 conflicts with that. And then, of course, any combination of
14 the above methods.

15 If we're talking about an NPA split, there are
16 several attributes for each of the types of splits. And in
17 general, splits provide a single area code for each geographic
18 area. This may minimize confusion for customers outside the
19 area, and implementation is generally understood, because this
20 has been the predominant method for relief over the years.

21 Splits, however, require an area code change for
22 approximately one half of the customers in a two-way split and
23 about two-thirds of the customers, if a three-way split is
24 considered.

25 Geographic splits permit 7-digit local dialing within

1 the area code. Stationery, business cards, advertising media,
2 et cetera, containing 10-digit phone numbers will need to be
3 revised by customers who receive the new area code. Future
4 splits, however, will reduce the geographic size of the area
5 code.

6 Some attributes of NPA overlays. With an overlay
7 there is more than one area code in a geographic area. This is
8 somewhat of a new concept only having been around a short
9 while, and the overlay customer education is extremely
10 important. An overlay will not require any existing customers
11 to change their area code. An overlay, however, does require
12 customers to dial 10 digits for all local calls. Toll calls,
13 however, remain as they are now; one, plus 10 digits. There is
14 no need to revise stationery, business cards and advertising
15 unless it contains only a 7-digit phone number. The overlay
16 will end any further shrinkage geographically of the size of
17 the area code, because subsequent relief will most likely be
18 another overlay.

19 Let's talk about the current 941 NPA. It currently
20 includes Lee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Collier, Manatee, and a
21 small part -- well, I guess, it's geographically, it's a large
22 part of Monroe County, but it's a small population of Monroe
23 County.

24 The current configuration for 941 was created when
25 the 863 area code was split in 2000. The projected exhaust

1 date for the current 941 NPA is currently first quarter 2003.
2 The current NPA configuration was born, if you will, May 22nd,
3 exactly one year ago today -- or yesterday, I guess. We sent
4 out the invitation to the planning meeting for the industry in
5 May 18th of 2000, the industry planning meeting was held in
6 July of 2000, not 20,000, I'm sorry, and the FPSC filing that
7 NPA made on behalf of the industry was made September 18th of
8 2000.

9 At that meeting and in the filing, four relief plans
10 were considered by the industry. The first relief plan was the
11 distributed overlay. This is where a new NPA code would be
12 assigned to the same geographic area as the existing 941 NPA.
13 Customers would retain their current telephone numbers;
14 however, 10-digit local dialing for all customers between and
15 within the area code would be required. That plan would last
16 approximately eight years at which point another relief
17 alternative would have to be considered.

18 Alternative two was a geographic split. I'll put the
19 map up, and we can look at that while I'm talking. The little
20 red line might be kind of hard to see, but the little red line
21 is right here, all right?

22 This is -- the split align occurs and one area
23 receives the new NPA and one area will retain the current 941
24 NPA. 10-digit local dialing would be required between the NPAs
25 for any local calls, but 7-digit local dialing would be

1 permitted within the NPA. The split boundary line runs along
2 the LATA line between the Tampa LATA and the Fort Myers LATA,
3 and that's an area which approximately indicates between Port
4 Charlotte and North Port. Area "B" has a life of six years,
5 this area down here. And Area "A" would have a life of
6 approximately ten years before additional relief would be
7 considered.

8 The third alternative considered is shown here in
9 Alternative 3. The split line would run along the exchange
10 boundaries between the Punta Gorda and the Port Charlotte
11 exchanges. It runs as shown in this diagram here on the county
12 map. Area "A" is seven years in life and Area "B," the
13 southern area, would have about nine years of life.

14 The fourth alternative was also a geographic split
15 and would place the split line between Charlotte and Lee
16 Counties, as shown on this map, and the lines there are varied;
17 "A" is about seven years, and Area "B" would be about ten years
18 of life.

19 At the industry meeting, no other relief alternatives
20 were submitted by the industry or considered. The industry
21 reached consensus at that meeting to recommend, and did so in
22 the filing, to recommend Alternative 1, the overlay, to the
23 Florida Public Service Commission. In the event, however that
24 the Commission decided not to adopt the overlay, the industry
25 recommended that the geographic split, Alternative Number 4, be

1 ordered. The recommendation, again, was filed by NANPA on
2 behalf of the industry, and we did that on September 18th of
3 2000. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you very much, Mr. Foley.

5 At this time, we're going to take customer input, and
6 let me explain. Because your statements may ultimately be
7 considered in a formal proceeding before the Commission, we
8 swear you in so your testimony will be sworn testimony today.
9 It's nothing magical about that. It's simply because our
10 process will take the form of an evidentiary docket.

11 If you would like to speak, we want to hear all your
12 thoughts and comments, but let me ask you particularly if you
13 have any thoughts about options that have been laid out by
14 Mr. Foley, we'd very much be interested in those and how you
15 see those.

16 We're also very interested in what you see to be the
17 various commonalities amongst the communities, common
18 communities of interest. Those are important elements for us
19 to think about as we begin to figure out just how to impose any
20 numbering relief.

21 And with that, I would like to ask all of those
22 customers who are here to testify to stand and raise your right
23 hand. In this matter before the Florida Public Service
24 Commission, do you swear or affirm that the testimony you are
25 about to give is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the

1 truth? You may answer.

2 ALL: I do.

3 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you very much. You may be
4 seated. As I indicated earlier, Mr. Poucher will call you up
5 in the order that he has you in. And Mr. Poucher, you may
6 proceed.

7 MR. POUCHER: Alan Zirkelbach.

8 ALAN ZIRKELBACH

9 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
10 testified as follows:

11 DIRECT STATEMENT

12 MR. ZIRKELBACH: Hello, Commissioners.

13 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: May I ask you, prior we can have
14 this instruction for all witnesses; if you would, give us the
15 correct spelling of your name --

16 MR. ZIRKELBACH: Sure.

17 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: -- just so we have it for the
18 record.

19 MR. ZIRKELBACH: Absolutely. My name is Alan,
20 A-l-a-n. Last name is Zirkelbach, Z-i-r-k-e-l-b-a-c-h.

21 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you.

22 MR. ZIRKELBACH: Thank you.

23 I am president of Zirkelbach Construction at 1001
24 Riverside Drive in Palmetto, Florida. I am currently serving
25 as chairman of the board for the Manatee Chamber of Commerce.

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1 I will serve one year as chairman through 2001 and be immediate
2 past chairman next year. I have been chairman of the Manatee
3 Economic Development Council, Manatee County Schools
4 Foundation, Manatee Education Alliance and Junior Achievement
5 while being active as a board member in numerous other
6 community committees over the last ten years. And again, I
7 serve as chief operating officer overseeing Chamber operations.

8 I mention this to assure you that I've been able to
9 have a unique community sampling of our county businesses,
10 which leads me to my concerns about the 941 recommended
11 proposed changes.

12 Manatee County is home to over 5,600 businesses. The
13 vast majority of these are small businesses under five
14 employees. In fact, 52% of the Chamber's members are five
15 employees or less.

16 "PCWorld" and "Money" magazines have recognized
17 Bradenton-Sarasota area as being second place of second-tier
18 cities to operate a home-based business. Small businesses are
19 more greatly impacted, both from an operational and financial
20 perspective by unanticipated changes, such as the proposed new
21 area code.

22 Not only purchasing new stationery, business cards,
23 et cetera, but the loss of business due to confusion and
24 downtime from a smaller company's perspective has a greater
25 chance of impacting their bottom line collectively.

1 Word of mouth and effective communications systems
2 are the two most appropriate ways to provide productive sales
3 and customer service efforts. The Manatee Chamber and Planning
4 for the New Millenium has projected improved customized
5 communications, such as e-mail, company chat boxes, interactive
6 communications as keys to providing our members the service
7 they demand and should deservedly receive interruptions and
8 distractions for the largest number of people, businesses carry
9 with it greater harm and, in some cases, irreparable harm.

10 Splitting Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte would
11 impact more than one million people living in these contiguous
12 counties. Bettering our quality of life is a major focus of
13 our Chamber of Commerce. However, we believe strongly these
14 changes would negatively affect such efforts.

15 Sorry, Channel 9. Is somebody here from Channel 9 so
16 I don't muck them up too much? Bay News 9, your news all the
17 time, right? Okay; my chamber plug for them.

18 Additionally, Manatee County has a strong industrial
19 base, shares an international airport with Sarasota County and
20 is home to the largest containerized port on the west coast of
21 Florida. Port Manatee is also the closest deepwater port to
22 Mexico and internationally, area code changes will have an
23 unsettling negative impact on our foreign business partners,
24 not to mention our international tourism, business, and senior
25 citizen populations.

1 "Money" magazine last year rated Bradenton-Sarasota
2 as one of the five best places to retire in the United States
3 because of its all-around appeal. "Expansion" magazine
4 recognized Bradenton-Sarasota as one of the 50 regions in the
5 United States to receive a five-star rating for its quality of
6 life quotient.

7 As far as the exhaust period is concerned, it should
8 most certainly be extended beyond the current time frame.
9 Methods of calculating phone lines should be intensely
10 analyzed, as well as new technology closely monitored in order
11 to plan for changes in the telecommunications industry that
12 would positively reduce the proliferation of new telephone
13 numbers.

14 If the Commissioners were to consider alternatives,
15 first and foremost, Manatee County should remain in the 941
16 area code. Second, there should be no overlays impacting
17 Manatee County. Due to our proximity being centrally located
18 and enjoying two of the most populous counties, Manatee,
19 Sarasota, and Charlotte are the most logical choices.

20 Specifically, Manatee and Sarasota County share
21 mutual transportation planning NPO organizations. They also
22 share recently reestablished metropolitan statistical areas,
23 also known as MSAs. They share business locations, water
24 supply, and educational institutions. In fact, we have a
25 difficult time knowing where Manatee County stops and Sarasota

1 County begins as it relates to our county boundary line,
2 particularly in terms of zip codes and tax issues.

3 As a case in point, in the southeast part of Manatee
4 County alone, in the Lakewood Ranch development area, a total
5 of 5,000 homes will be built in the next five years and this
6 development straddles the Manatee and Sarasota County lines.
7 We would not be in favor of an overlay method of relief in
8 Manatee County. We do not believe an overlay method is a good
9 means to reach an extended exhaust period.

10 Businesses have speed dials for a specific purpose,
11 although many baby boomers and many companies do not have or
12 use this feature. Perhaps the 7-digit number is about the
13 capacity at which businesspeople and elderly alike are able to
14 handle rendering to their memory. This only exasperates the
15 growing concern for cell phone users to have to dial three more
16 numbers as well. Thank you very much for the time you have
17 afforded me.

18 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Very well, Mr. Zirkelbach.
19 According to your comments, then, you would, in looking at the
20 options that have been proposed --

21 MR. ZIRKELBACH: We are in support of Option Number 4
22 as it has been proposed.

23 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Very well. Thank you very much.

24 MR. ZIRKELBACH: Thank you.

25 MR. POUCHER: Chairman Joe McClash.

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JOE McCLASH

appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
testified as follows:

DIRECT STATEMENT

MR. McCLASH: Good afternoon, and thank you for taking
the time to hear our comments in a very important issue. The
comments from the previous speaker really identify all the
general concerns that this community has. And our board has
taken a position to not have the overlay, but if you're going
to do split, then to do the Alternative 4.

And we'd just like to kind of keep the character of
our community the same between Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte,
especially Manatee and Sarasota, we do have those common bonds.
Also, a certain number of years as a chairman of the NPO for
the two bodies, Manatee and Sarasota County, we work well
together and it would really be a shame to split us up in any
way. So, we just urge you to go with the alternative number
four.

CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Might I ask you could you restate
your name for us again?

MR. McCLASH: My name is Joe McClash, J-o-e
M-c-C-l-a-s-h, and I'm the chairman of the county commission
for Manatee County.

COMMISSIONER DEASON: I have a question.

MR. McCLASH: Yes, sir.

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1 COMMISSIONER DEASON: I know that you're the chairman
2 for Manatee County, you can't really speak for the people of
3 Charlotte County, but however, I do value your opinion as to --
4 and we'll hear from the people in Charlotte County later, I'm
5 sure, but in your opinion, do you think that Charlotte County
6 has more of a community interest north with Sarasota and
7 Manatee County or more of a community of interest to the south
8 with Lee and Collier County?

9 MR. McCLASH: More than likely they share a little
10 bit more with Sarasota County. We do serve on the same
11 regional water supply with them and also West Coastal
12 Navigational District. There is some ties there, and we're
13 partnering with the three counties to gain the support of
14 Charlotte County with Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte. We
15 felt that that was the most appropriate split. Certainly,
16 there's other options there, but that's one that we chose to
17 work with --

18 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Okay.

19 MR. McCLASH: -- to recommend to you today.

20 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you.

22 MR. McCLASH: Any other questions? Thank you for
23 taking your time and being with us here.

24 MR. POUCHER: Commissioner Jane von Hahmann.

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JANE VON HAHMANN

appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
testified as follows:

DIRECT STATEMENT

MS. VON HAHMANN: Good afternoon. My name is Jane
von Hahmann. J-a-n-e, v as in Victor, o-n, capital
H-a-h-m-a-n-n.

I, too, serve on the board of Manatee County
Commission and as our chairman just told you, we voted to
support Option Number 4. And I would just like to state that
our marketing for the Bradenton or Manatee County, Sarasota
area is a lot of joint marketing. You pick up a lot of
publications there for both counties. Charlotte County, I
believe, should be also included in our area.

I would also like to state that I am a small business
owner in this area for 26 years, and I have been through --
already been through one area code change. I also would like
to state that for the overlay districts, I just -- I, on a
personal level, just don't see how that can assist us; in fact,
the idea of more than one 10-digit dialing area within an area
-- one area code within an area code, then, doesn't make an
area code, because area codes should be defining. That's why
I, personally, besides supporting the Commission, support
option number four. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you. Any questions,
2 Commissioners?

3 MR. POUCHER: Commissioner Amy Stein.

4 AMY STEIN

5 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
6 testified as follows:

7 DIRECT STATEMENT

8 MS. STEIN: Thank you. My name's Amy Stein, A-m-y
9 S-t-e-i-n. I'm Vice Chairman of the Manatee County Commission,
10 Commissioner for District 1. And I join my colleagues, as you
11 might imagine, in asking you to adopt Option Number 4.

12 And I know there are a lot of people in the audience
13 who are going to speak to some of the business and economic
14 impacts, and I won't get into that, but let me share with you
15 comments from my constituents. And I have been able to talk to
16 quite a few of them, because this has gotten a little bit of
17 press coverage.

18 And every single person, ironically or not, has said
19 the very same thing when they heard about the overlay district
20 proposal, and it was "You've got to be kidding." People are
21 really upset about it. And I can't urge you strongly enough,
22 really implore you, to go with option four.

23 Let me answer a question you asked Commissioner
24 McClash to flesh out the Charlotte County connection a little
25 bit more for you. Charlotte County, Manatee County, and

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1 Sarasota County are joint partners in the Charlotte Harbor
2 National Estuary program project for all the water basins that
3 empty into Charlotte Harbor.

4 We have a very good communal working relationship in
5 that regard, which is a major regional thrust. And the Peace
6 River Water Authority as well is comprised of Charlotte County,
7 Sarasota County, Manatee County, and Desoto County. And we
8 have a regional water supply agenda that hopefully we'll be
9 expanding beyond the Peace River water project into other
10 projects that are going to benefit the region, so there are a
11 lot of ties there.

12 Also, I'm the chairman of the Civic Center Authority.
13 And we, very recently, within -- I want to say maybe the last
14 six months -- have gone with the new marketing approach. We
15 have removed ourselves from Tampa Bay marketing and we are
16 marketing ourselves as the southwest Florida barrier island
17 group that starts in the north at Manatee County and goes down
18 to Monroe County.

19 So, as unpleasant as it might be to have to take the
20 point -- the action at this point to split that, it makes a lot
21 of sense to us to split it at the midpoint, let the three
22 northern counties go forward together, let the three southern
23 counties go forward together.

24 And let me throw one idea out to you. And I'm not
25 sure if today is the most timely day to do it, but I'd like you

1 to take into consideration the possibility that if you need to
2 go with overlays in the future to help expand the usefulness of
3 these area codes for the community, if it's possible, and I
4 don't know if you can make these distinctions, but maybe it
5 would be worth considering doing an overlay on cellular phone
6 telephony, and leaving the standard telephony alone.

7 I just really think with the youth in our community,
8 the number of older citizens we have in our community doing a
9 10-digit dialing and having the potential that the person two
10 doors down from you is in a different area code is just more
11 than people really need to be going through.

12 And if we can all keep it simple, as simple as
13 possible, I'm sure that all the residents of the counties will
14 thank you. And I appreciate the work that you're doing on this
15 and the time that you're taking and your thoughtful
16 consideration of our comments and your willingness to serve the
17 citizens of Florida in this capacity.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER PALECKI: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Commissioner Stein, I'd welcome
22 your suggestion on the overlay. It is an idea that has been
23 proposed on several instances. It's been dubbed a
24 service-specific overlay. To date, it is met with some
25 opposition; in fact, I think, there are some legal questions as

1 to it. And there are some questions as to whether or not it
2 imposes some competitive unfairness on certain -- on those
3 industries, but I do know that there is a petition out there
4 that is still alive, and I'm not sure in which state it is, but
5 there is one state I do know that has proposed that and it's
6 still moving forward. So, it's worthy of discussion, and I
7 appreciate your suggestion.

8 MS. STEIN: Well, one other thing, if I could just
9 add on, and I'm sure you're very good about making sure that
10 we, as ratepayers, get the service we need in terms of using
11 numbers that are turned in and making sure that those are
12 turned out again, maybe in a six-month period or a three-month
13 period or whatever needs to happen to help make this process
14 work well for everybody.

15 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Great.

16 MS. STEIN: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you.

18 MR. POUCHER: For the remainder of the witnesses, you
19 might want to remember to pause just a second when you're
20 completed with your statement to give the Commissioners a
21 chance to ask you a question.

22 Mayor Wayne H. Poston.

23 WAYNE H. POSTON

24 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
25 testified as follows:

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1 DIRECT STATEMENT

2 MR. POSTON: Good morning. I'm Mayor Wayne Poston,
3 P-o-s-t-o-n, mayor of the city of Bradenton. I would also like
4 to thank you for taking the time to hear public comment on this
5 issue. It's an important issue for us, and I won't repeat what
6 everyone else has said. The city of Bradenton supports
7 alternative number four. We think that makes the most sense
8 for our community and for all of our citizens, including the
9 age group.

10 We have some worry about the overlay district making
11 it much more difficult for -- we have a lot of retirees down
12 here. We think it would be a tougher issue for them. That's
13 just one of the reasons, but let me reiterate what my
14 colleagues have said, Alternative Number 4 makes the most sense
15 to do.

16 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: You're welcome, Mayor Poston. Any
17 questions, Commissioners? Thank you very much.

18 MR. POSTON: Appreciate it.

19 MR. POUCHER: Lawrence Powers.

20 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: While Mr. Powers comes, I want to
21 also note that assistant -- I should say Vice Mayor, Bill
22 Arnold, of Bradenton is here as well.

23 LAWRENCE POWERS

24 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
25 testified as follows:

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DIRECT STATEMENT

1
2 MR. POWERS: I'm Lawrence Powers, P-o-w-e-r-s; I'm
3 the plural. I guess, I'm the only one speaking here in favor
4 of an overlay. And the reason I say that is that number one,
5 we're going to run out of numbers again, and we're going to go
6 through this again in a few years if we just split the area
7 code.

8 Secondly, dialing ten digits isn't that much of a
9 problem. We're dialing seven today; hitting three more numbers
10 doesn't make any difference at all.

11 Thirdly, I'd like to say that maybe we ought to
12 consider doing away with the term area code and just say that
13 we have 10-digit dialing. Other parts of the world have
14 10-digit dialing, get along fine.

15 I just came down from New England, I have a summer
16 home there. We did an overlay this past year. It worked out
17 very well, much better than changing the area code would have.
18 We have changed the area code three times previously in about
19 the last 20 years. It is mass confusion. It's much better to
20 just give everybody a new number, all right, the new phone
21 people new numbers.

22 It's going to be a slow transition. It doesn't
23 happen tomorrow. It doesn't say that you are going to have on
24 such and such a day a new phone number. You are going to get a
25 gradual building of this new area code group, and it shouldn't

1 throughout the three-county area and in some cases beyond the
2 three-county area.

3 In any case, it would be very helpful to us to
4 maintain the phone numbers that we have in the three-county
5 area; specifically, we would like to support option four. And
6 with that, I'm done, and I thank you for giving me the
7 opportunity to speak. Any questions?

8 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: No questions. Thank you very much.

9 MR. BROWN: Thank you very much.

10 MR. POUCHER: Bob Beck.

11 BOB BECK

12 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
13 testified as follows:

14 DIRECT STATEMENT

15 MR. BECK: My name is Bob Beck, that's B-o-b B-e-c-k.

16 MR. POUCHER: Sorry about that.

17 MR. BECK: That's quite all right.

18 I'm here today representing my company, which is
19 Staffing Professionals, Incorporated. I also straddle the
20 Manatee-Sarasota County line on University Parkway.

21 I'm here today speaking on behalf of Alternative 4,
22 and I'm going to speak specifically to the point of small
23 business and how a change in -- and I've gone through the most
24 recent change -- in looking at the type of business. I'm a
25 staffing service. I do business from Port Manatee down to Port

1 Charlotte.

2 And as I review in looking at my database, and we are
3 a people source, and we have thousands of employees and
4 candidates in our database. About 50% are from Manatee, 50%
5 from Sarasota County. I've not begun to look at what cost
6 impact it would be to changing of area codes, but I certainly
7 could see the intense labor in changing my database of people
8 who, heretofore, were in a 941 and, say, split to another one.

9 Speaking selfishly because my core business is within
10 these, essentially, two county areas and perhaps Charlotte in
11 the near future. So, as 99% of people who we do business with
12 that are in our database communicate with us by telephone. And
13 so, consequently, I can see the confusion of persons who today
14 would call this particular number and under perhaps a new
15 arrangement would be calling another number.

16 So, it is a two-way street and I'm saying, I guess,
17 from simplicity and elimination of confusion, I, as a small
18 businessperson, there are hundreds of us along that corridor of
19 Manatee and Sarasota County would face, essentially, the same
20 situation as I currently do.

21 Thank you for your time, and I appreciate it.

22 COMMISSIONER DEASON: I have a question.

23 MR. BECK: Yes, sir.

24 COMMISSIONER DEASON: I understand you support Option
25 4, and that is the geographic split. There is the possibility

1 that you would -- even though there's a geographic split, the
2 possibility is that your area may receive the new area code.
3 Do you have any thoughts on that? I mean, that's a decision we
4 will have to make.

5 MR. BECK: An entirely new --

6 COMMISSIONER DEASON: Well, when we split, one area
7 keeps the existing and then one area gets the new. And I was
8 just wondering if you had any thoughts in that regard.

9 MR. BECK: Well, I guess, I'm naturally one of which
10 would support not making any change, but I also understand that
11 there will be a change needed sometime in the future, and I
12 guess, speaking from the standpoint I very much support not
13 making a change in that. Thank you for your time.

14 Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: So that I make sure I understand,
16 so you would favor option four, and you'd want to keep 941 for
17 the area, just leave it as Area "A" --

18 MR. BECK: Right.

19 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: -- between Manatee, Sarasota, and
20 Charlotte. Okay, thank you.

21 MR. BECK: Thank you.

22 MR. POUCHER: Tom Moseley.

23 TOM MOSELEY

24 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
25 testified as follows:

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DIRECT STATEMENT

1
2 MR. MOSELEY: Hello. My name is Tom Moseley; Moseley
3 is M-o-s-e-l-e-y, and I'm an attorney in Manatee County and
4 have two employees. And I'm here to speak in favor of Option
5 Number 4 and to keep the area code at 941 in Manatee, Sarasota,
6 and Charlotte Counties.

7 One of the things you were talking about, about the
8 commonality of the two areas is that Manatee and Sarasota and
9 Desoto Counties are in the same judicial circuit, so that the
10 attorneys in both Manatee and Sarasota Counties, you know, have
11 a lot of interactions because the judges travel in that circuit
12 as between Manatee and Sarasota County, so I think, that's
13 another commonality that the two communities have.

14 As a small businessperson, I've been through one
15 change of area code from 813 to the 941 area code in this
16 community and, you know, there are a lot of things that I have
17 to change. When you change the phone numbers, particularly, as
18 an attorney, you've got business cards and manuscript covers
19 and just about everything, you know, that you have printed has
20 to have those changes made to it. And I would certainly favor
21 that for my own interest that it stays as the 941.

22 I mean, there are all sorts of other problems it
23 creates. I mean, I've had a problem when you change before
24 just with, you know, registering software or, you know,
25 registering new things, because if their computer didn't have

1 the area code in the computer, then they couldn't enter it in.

2 So, I mean, a lot of these databases and technical
3 support lines that computer people are using takes them a while
4 to get these new numbers in. And so, you know, if it's not in
5 their database, that area code doesn't exist.

6 The other thing that I would like to urge you all
7 when you're looking at changing these numbers and doing a
8 geographical split is doing a number of documentaries and other
9 things on the phone numbers so that one of the problems is that
10 there are companies that, I guess, reserve large blocks of
11 these numbers and that that creates problems.

12 And when you're talking about changing these numbers
13 and doing these splits, I mean, I would urge you all to
14 carefully look and see whether there are really numbers that
15 are available and that are just being tied up by companies
16 that, you know, makes it inconvenient for the rest of us
17 because of that.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Very well. Thank you.

20 Mr. Moseley, you're very accurate in astuting your observation.
21 In Florida, there are efforts under way to do what we call
22 reclaim those unused numbers. We're not -- that is not on the
23 way at the moment in 941, but it is a measure that we could
24 consider, and so we appreciate your thoughts and comments on
25 that.

1 MR. MOSELEY: Okay, thank you.

2 MR. POUCHER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner von Hahmann
3 wanted to talk to you one more time.

4 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: By all means, Ms. von Hahmann,
5 Commissioner.

6 MS. VON HAHMANN: Jane von Hahmann again. I
7 apologize. In my zeal to get my personal and county position
8 across, I failed to do something that some constituents of mine
9 have requested I do, which is to read into the record a request
10 from the Federation of Manatee County Community Associations.
11 And it reads, "Dear Commission members, The Federation of
12 Manatee County Community Associations, comprised of a
13 substantial number of home owners and telephone users in
14 Manatee County, wish to go on record supporting the position of
15 not changing the 941 area code number for this area.

16 If necessary, the federation supports the dividing of
17 the existing 941 area code at the Charlotte County-Lee County
18 line and keeping the 941 area code for the Manatee, Sarasota,
19 Charlotte area."

20 And it's signed, "Yours truly, Federation Manatee
21 County Community Association, Earnest S. Marshall, President."
22 And this is dated May 22nd, 2001.

23 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Very well.

24 MS. VON HAHMANN: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Will you see that we get a copy of

1 that?

2 MS. VON HAHMANN: I'm going give this to you. Thank
3 you very much. Again, I apologize.

4 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: You can give it to the court
5 reporter or Mr. -- he'll do just fine.

6 MR. POUCHER: Jim Minix.

7 JIM MINIX

8 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
9 testified as follows:

10 DIRECT STATEMENT

11 MR. MINIX: My name is Jim Minix, M-i-n-i-x.

12 Chairman Jacobs, I think, it was just a little over a
13 year ago that you and I were together at a hearing very similar
14 to this. I represent Manatee County --

15 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Right.

16 MR. MINIX: -- senior assistant county attorney. We
17 went through the formal hearings. And fortunately, I think,
18 the Public Service Commission, in its wisdom, determined that
19 the 941 area code would remain with the coastal counties.

20 Now, just a little over a year later, we're faced
21 with the same dilemma again. We welcome you here to Manatee
22 County and, I think, you've seen a consensus. The consensus is
23 we want to retain our 941 area code. The consensus also is we
24 don't want an overlay, and we'd like to have Alternative 4 as
25 our split.

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1 You saw already three of our county commissioners
2 have come to speak on this issue. That's three out of seven,
3 and that's a pretty good turnout; also, the mayor of the
4 largest city of this area and several other people who may be
5 speaking after me that are elected representatives.

6 So, I think, you all see how important this is to our
7 community that we retain 941. The fact is you can see it's not
8 a canned presentation, because we had one person who spoke for
9 an overlay, so there was a minority view represented here
10 today. But the fact is that the overwhelming majority of the
11 people, as all elected representatives in this area have
12 discerned, is to retain the 941.

13 One comment on overlay, and that is I have to pick up
14 on something Chairman Garcia said last year at our last
15 hearing. Chairman Garcia said, you know, he was responsible,
16 in part, for the decision to put an overlay in Dade County some
17 couple of years ago. And he said he hadn't heard so much from
18 his grandmother about that overlay that he had to really think
19 again about whether he was in favor of overlays after that.

20 Now, maybe three years later, Chairman Garcia's
21 grandmother has finally become used to 10-digit dialing, but I
22 don't think this area is ready to have 10-digit dialing for our
23 elderly. I would just note if you looked at our local paper,
24 and one of our papers, by the way, serves Charlotte, Sarasota
25 and Manatee Counties. And in that paper they stated that

1 Charlotte County is the second county in the nation in the
2 median elderly population. Sarasota is number six. Manatee
3 isn't in the top ten, but I'm sure we're in the top 20. So,
4 think about that when you're thinking about an overlay.

5 I know the industry loves an overlay, because it
6 makes it easier for them. But I would also point out that if
7 it split, the 941 with Charlotte, Manatee, and Sarasota in the
8 same area code, that that's good for at least seven years, at
9 that point, overlays would probably be a lot more acceptable
10 throughout the nation. We don't want to be a pioneer in
11 overlays. And, I think, I represent a consensus point of view
12 that we will then also represent in the formal hearings later
13 this summer.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you, Mr. Minix.

16 Next witness.

17 MR. POUCHER: Jill Racer Lewis. We're going to skip
18 over that one. We're going to David McDonald.

19 DAVID McDONALD

20 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
21 testified as follows:

22 DIRECT STATEMENT

23 MR. McDONALD: Good afternoon. My name is David
24 McDonald, that's M-c, capital D-o-n-a-l-d. I'm the executive
25 director of Port Manatee, which is operated by the Manatee

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1 County Port Authority. I would like to speak on behalf of
2 international trade and commerce and international business as
3 it relates to our community and to our seaport.

4 Port Manatee is, out of the 14 deepwater seaports in
5 our state, the fifth largest. We move about five million tons
6 of cargo a year through that port from destinations all around
7 the world, anything from fertilizer to China, cruise industry,
8 which has numerous reservations and reservation operations that
9 travels and cruises throughout the Caribbean, perishable goods
10 that come from central America and from Europe, construction
11 goods that come from south America and really all regions of
12 the world that are imported and exported through Port Manatee.
13 So, I speak on behalf of some better than 5,000 people whose
14 jobs are represented as they work in and out of the seaports on
15 a daily basis, and we support maintaining the 941 area code and
16 the Option Number 4, the Alternative Number 4, that has been
17 presented before us today.

18 And one of the things that is a concern to us, as we
19 deal with businesses from all over the world, is that they be
20 able to contact our business operations here within Manatee
21 County and Port Manatee that we do an awful lot of advertising
22 worldwide. It takes time to get out to those particular
23 operations and to inadvertently make so many changes or
24 potential changes to our area code in a short number of years
25 can be devastating to business and business opportunities as

1 they try to reach both port authority and the various
2 international companies that we represent.

3 So, Mr. Chairman, we're respectfully throwing our hat
4 in with the Alternative Number 4 and maintaining or retaining
5 the 941 area code.

6 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you, Mr. McDonald. Any
7 questions, Commissioners?

8 COMMISSIONER PALECKI: I'd just like to follow-up on
9 a question Commissioner Deason asked earlier. If we go with
10 Option Number 4, we're going to have to give three counties a
11 new area code. Can you give me any reasons that the Manatee,
12 Sarasota, Charlotte County area should retain the existing area
13 code over the other three counties to the south?

14 MR. McDONALD: Yes, sir. I think, we have maybe one
15 of the strongest reasons for that. Any foreign business
16 calling us is going to have to dial an area code, obviously, a
17 country code and an area code. To change the 941 area code to
18 those companies that know now how to reach us or maybe have
19 found out how to reach us and give another area code, we feel,
20 would be disadvantageous and could possibly thwart new business
21 opportunities or people being able to get in contact. And so,
22 that's our main reason for requesting that you retain the 941
23 area code in the Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte areas.

24 COMMISSIONER PALECKI: Thank you.

25 MR. McDONALD: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you very much.

2 MR. McDONALD: Thank you very much.

3 MR. POUCHER: Mitch Mallett; is that correct? Karen
4 Liocano? Jim Dolke? Okay. Even though we are all from
5 Tallahassee, we are not perfect. Did we miss anybody?

6 SPEAKER: What's the last name you called?

7 MR. POUCHER: Jim D-o-l-k-e.

8 SPEAKER: Jim Doyle.

9 MR. POUCHER: Doyle.

10 SPEAKER: Maybe that's it. I can be him.

11 MR. POUCHER: Let's try Jim Doyle; sorry.

12 MR. DOYLE: It's that Catholic school penmanship.

13 JIM DOYLE

14 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
15 testified as follows:

16 DIRECT STATEMENT

17 MR. DOYLE: My name is Jim Doyle. I'm the vice
18 president of marketing for Schroeder Manatee Ranch, which is a
19 very large stakeholder and over 20,000 acres in Manatee County.
20 We also strategically sit on the Manatee County and Sarasota
21 County line and represent not only our land issues but now some
22 3,000 households newly formed over the last seven years and
23 currently roughly two million square feet of new business
24 office and retail with another six million in the pipeline.

25 And, I think, it's a very big issue, and I speak for

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1 all of those constituencies on the issue. I apologize. I
2 missed the first part of your meeting, but a statistical fact
3 that, I think, varies for our three-county area from the
4 opposing three-county area as outlined in Option 4 is a fact
5 that the federal government has published that over the period
6 1995 to 2000 the Manatee-Sarasota MSA marketing area was the
7 fastest-growing job market in the nation. An incredible number
8 of jobs have been created here on a percentage of increase, not
9 on a gross percentage, but as a percentage of increase. It's
10 the fastest-growing job market in the country over that
11 five-year period. I don't think you will find that in the
12 other three zip code areas.

13 The real impact or a major impact, I would wager to
14 say, is the impact of changing an area code on businesses, so I
15 believe that there's a hardship case for those many new jobs
16 and businesses that have been created. I think, it's very safe
17 to say that based on the projections for this three-county
18 area, that job growth will continue here. I'm not sure that
19 you'll find that same job growth component in the other three
20 counties, which tend to be driven over their last five years by
21 less job growth than in these three counties.

22 So, on behalf of many of those stakeholders and a
23 very large portion of where that growth will occur over the
24 next five or ten years in a coverage plan, I think, they'd
25 present a very strong case for keeping the three counties in

1 941 with really a less impact on those business and those new
2 residents.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. POUCHER: Mr. Doyle was our last witness. Did I
5 miss anyone? Yes.

6 SPEAKER: H-e-d-r-i-c-k, Hedrick. I filled one out.

7 MR. POUCHER: Mr. Hedrick?

8 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you. You were sworn,
9 Mr. Hedrick, correct?

10 MR. HEDRICK: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Very well. Thank you.

12 MONT HEDRICK

13 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,
14 testified as follows:

15 DIRECT STATEMENT

16 MR. HEDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners.
17 My name is Mont Hedrick; it's M-o-n-t, the last name is
18 H-e-d-r-i-c-k. I am the Florida director of sales for an
19 Internet firm based here in Manatee County called Banner Manor.
20 And the reason I wanted to speak today to just make what I feel
21 are a few common sense points.

22 One, regardless of the action taken, in seven to
23 eight years, we're going to have to face it again. None of the
24 alternatives eliminate that, so we'll be facing overlay as a
25 question in eight years or seven years, whether we go with

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1 Alternative 4 or if we go with the overlay immediately.

2 The second thing is that with the split, and we do
3 support Alternative 4, with the split, at least half or maybe a
4 little more geographically of the region remains stable. The
5 other region -- and we have been through the area code change,
6 it's not an easy change, but it is a relatively time defined
7 quickly done change. In an overlay situation there's constant
8 turmoil. Number one, you automatically inconvenience everyone
9 in the entire area.

10 Secondly, when a company, like ours, which will be
11 expanding as we add to our telephone lines, communication
12 equipment, et cetera, when we have to have either two different
13 area codes on all of our business literature, because we had to
14 get our new lines out of the overlay number or change
15 everything to the new overlay area code, it creates a constant
16 turmoil that is more individualized but it is still a constant
17 turmoil, nonetheless.

18 My third point would be seven years down the road,
19 technology may have found a way to be immersed over a
20 service-specific with overlays, there may be other
21 alternatives. And since we're going to be facing the same
22 overlay question at about the same time anyway, I would like to
23 argue for keeping stability as much as we could in the three
24 counties in Manatee, Sarasota and Lee and staying with 941 here
25 and hope that in the seven years there will be some additional

1 alternatives available to us when we have to face the overlay
2 problem again. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER PALECKI: Mr. Hedrick?

4 MR. HEDRICK: Yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER PALECKI: If we do go with Alternative
6 Number 4 and the three counties to the north retain the
7 existing area code, obviously, the most difficult part of our
8 job will be complaining to the three parties to the south why
9 they are not deserving of keeping the existing area code. What
10 advice can you give us on how to explain to them why the three
11 counties to the north are more deserving?

12 MR. HEDRICK: Well, to a certain extent, you can
13 house it in the framework of level of economic development. We
14 have the major international airport, we have the major
15 international port, we have a much higher level of economic
16 development through these.

17 When the 813 area code was changed, people south of
18 Tampa all got to change their area code. The next leg changing
19 941 where, again, the most southernly or less-developed
20 counties are the ones that would be asked to make the change
21 that way. That would be one of the ways I would offer, as an
22 alternative before they start throwing shoes at me, probably,
23 but I'm sure there are other reasons, but I would say because
24 the level of economic development is much greater in these
25 three counties.

1 COMMISSIONER PALECKI: Because we will be going south
2 tomorrow, and I'm sure we're going to be hearing from those
3 counties, and they're going to be wanting to keep the same area
4 code.

5 MR. HEDRICK: Yeah, I understand.

6 COMMISSIONER PALECKI: Thank you very much.

7 MR. HEDRICK: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Excuse me, Mr. Hedrick -- I'm
9 sorry, Hedrick. I want to be real clear just in the last part
10 of your comments when you named the three counties, you named
11 Lee. It should be Charlotte.

12 MR. HEDRICK: Did I misspeak?

13 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: I just want to make sure that it's
14 Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte.

15 MR. HEDRICK: Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte.
16 That's the alternative four.

17 MR. MINIX: Could I just respond to Commissioner
18 Palecki's question which was the best question, I think, and
19 that is why us as opposed to Lee, Collier and Monroe, and
20 there's also two other answers to that and, I think, one of
21 them follows the Public Service Commission philosophy of the
22 largest population of the region retains the current area code.
23 That seems to be what you've been doing.

24 Maybe there's exceptions to that, but I know there
25 was a battle a couple of years ago between the Tallahassee

1 region and the Jacksonville region. And if anyone had the
2 political clout, you would have thought Tallahassee did to
3 retain 904, but I notice now when they call our government we
4 have to dial 850, so it may be population; and, I believe,
5 although the two areas are fairly close in population, I think,
6 we're still ahead in population. Certainly, if we get the
7 split, it stays less for us than it would be for them. So,
8 that indicates to me there must be more telephone lines up here
9 or must be more telephone lines in our area.

10 The second reason and, I think, it's a good one, and
11 if it follows the tradition of what happened last time,
12 Chairman Jacobs, and that is who's more interested in keeping
13 their current area code? We're very interested in keeping ours
14 as represented by all the elected officials and others that
15 were here.

16 I recall last time when we were down in Lee County, I
17 didn't notice the same kind of interest by the people down
18 there in keeping their area code. So, that might be something
19 to take advantage of. I hope that it doesn't necessarily mean
20 this time will follow last time, but I do know that last time
21 that this happened, and we've only been 18 months since the
22 last time we had to go through this, we were more interested
23 and guess what? Polk County and the outlying rural counties
24 who hardly participated at all in this ended up having the new
25 area code. All three of our counties are formal parties in the

1 administrative action that's going to take place this summer.
2 That indicates to me a great deal of official and unofficial
3 interest in obtaining this code.

4 MR. POUCHER: Could you state your name again for the
5 record?

6 MR. MINIX: Yes, Jim Minix, senior county attorney
7 for Manatee County.

8 COMMISSIONER PALECKI: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JACOBS: Thank you.

10 That takes care of all of the customers who signed up
11 in advance. Is there anyone who has come in and would like to
12 testify? You're not precluded. Feel free to come forward.

13 Let the record reflect that no one has indicated a
14 desire to speak. And so with that, that takes care of today's
15 hearing. I want to thank all of those who spoke. Your
16 comments were very good and will absolutely be of assistance to
17 us as we deliberate on this issue.

18 As was noted earlier, we are conducting other
19 hearings. Everyone here is free to come to any hearing you'd
20 like. We'll be in Sarasota this evening. Tomorrow we have
21 three locations; one in Englewood, one at Port Charlotte and, I
22 believe, another in Naples and on Friday we'll be in Fort
23 Myers. If there's nothing else to come before us today, we
24 thank you for coming and this hearing is adjourned.

25 (Hearing concluded at 1:04 p.m.)

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1 STATE OF FLORIDA)
2 : CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
3 COUNTY OF LEON)

4
5 I, KORETTA E. STANFORD, RPR, Official Commission
6 Reporter, do hereby certify that the Service Hearing in
7 docket 000604-TL was heard by the Public Service Commission at
8 the time and place herein stated.

9 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically
10 reported the said proceedings; that the same has been
11 transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this
12 transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said
13 proceedings.

14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee,
15 attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative
16 or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel
17 connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in
18 the action.

19 DATED THIS Thursday, June 14, 2001.

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21 
22 KORETTA E. STANFORD, RPR
23 FPSC Official Commissioner Reporter
24 (850) 413-6734
25

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION