

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Attorney

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Sarasota, Florida 34236

Jorge L. Fernández
County Attorney

ORIGINAL

June 22, 2001

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

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Re: Docket No. 000604-TL

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed is the original and fifteen(15) copies of Sarasota County's Prehearing Statement in the above-referenced proceeding

Please indicate receipt of this filing on the enclosed copy of this letter and return to the undersigned in the enclosed stamped envelope. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathleen F. Schneider
Assistant County Attorney

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request for Review of Proposed
Numbering Plan Relief for the 941
Area Code

Docket 000604-TL

SARASOTA COUNTY'S
PREHEARING STATEMENT

I. WITNESSES/ SUBJECT MATTER OF TESTIMONY:

- A. Shannon Staub, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners – impact of area code change on citizens of Sarasota County; objection to an all-services overlay; endorsement of alternative 4 and number conservation measures in the 941 NPA; objection to alternatives 2 and 3.
- B. Gregg D. Feagans, Emergency Management Chief, Emergency Services Business Center, Sarasota County – impact of area code change on emergency management services; impact of multiple area codes in one county on emergency management services; endorsement of alternative 4.
- C. William W. Couch, Vice President of Public Affairs, The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce – impact of area code change on businesses in Sarasota County; objection to overlay alternative; endorsement of alternative 4 and number conservation measures in the 941 NPA.
- D. Virginia J. Haley, Executive Director, Sarasota Convention and Visitors Bureau – objection to all-services overlay; endorsement of alternative 4; objection to alternatives 2 and 3.

II. EXHIBITS None

III. BASIC POSITION:

Frequent changes to the area code have a significant impact on the governmental emergency services as well as on the continued economic development of the County. Sarasota County was a party in the previous 941 NPA Relief docket two years ago. At that time, Sarasota County had proposed what is today Alternative 4. That alternative was not considered two years ago because it necessitated a two-way split in the 941 NPA, which the industry argued against even though it had been done in other areas of the country.

In this proceeding, Alternative 4 is the industry's second choice, and remains Sarasota County's preferred choice. The projected exhaust period for area "A" of Alternative 4 is 7 years. Sarasota County strongly encourages the Public Service Commission to seek approval from the Federal Communications Commission to

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implement number conservation measures in the 941 NPA so as to further extend this projected exhaust period.

It is Sarasota County's position that the all-services overlay is not a viable alternative as it creates confusion for the County's significant senior population as well as the tourist industry and effectively undermines the concept of a unified, interactive business community. Sarasota County also strongly objects to Alternative 2 on the grounds that it splits the communities of interest in the Englewood, Port Charlotte and North Port area and also splits Charlotte County and Sarasota County. Alternative 3 is also not a viable alternative as it splits the communities of interest in Charlotte County.

IV. QUESTIONS OF FACT:

- A. Question: Which proposed relief alternative proposed by NANPA is the least disruptive to the citizens and businesses of Sarasota County?

Sarasota County's position: Alternative 4 is the least disruptive alternative and is widely endorsed by the business community and residents of Sarasota County. There is a strong community of interest among Charlotte County, Sarasota County and Manatee County that Alternative 4 would maintain and help prosper.

Witnesses: Shannon Staub, Gregg D. Feagans, William W. Couch, Virginia J. Haley

- B. Question: Whether the all-services overlay is an acceptable alternative.

Sarasota County's position: A resounding "no". As evidenced by the testimony at the customer service hearings in May, the citizens and business leaders of Sarasota County strongly oppose an overlay. It is a burdensome, confusing solution that adversely impacts new businesses, causes potential delay in the implementation of emergency management services, and creates confusion for the substantial senior population.

Witnesses: Shannon Staub, Gregg D. Feagans, William W. Couch, Virginia J. Haley

- C. Question: Whether Alternatives 2 and 3 are acceptable relief alternatives.

Sarasota County's position: No. Alternative 2 splits strong communities of interest in the Sarasota, Englewood, Port Charlotte and North Port areas which would severely undermine the efforts which have been made in creating unified governmental, business and emergency services.

Witnesses: Shannon Staub, Gregg D. Feagans

V. QUESTIONS OF POLICY:

- A. Question: Whether the Public Service Commission should actively pursue implementing number conservation measures in the 941 NPA.

Sarasota County's position: During the 1999 941 NPA relief hearings, the Commission indicated that it would be pursuing number conservation measures. To date, that has not occurred in the 941 NPA. The Commission should actively pursue implementing number conservation measures in the 941 NPA by soliciting local government and citizen involvement and interaction with the Federal Communications Commission.

Witness: Shannon Staub, William W. Couch

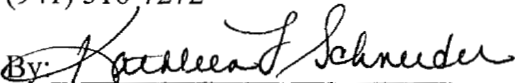
- B. Question: Whether area "A" of Alternative 4 (Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties) should retain the 941 area code.

Sarasota County's position: Yes. That section of the current 941 NPA, comprised of Sarasota, Charlotte and Manatee counties, should retain the 941 area code for three basic reasons: (1) Area "A" has, by a significant margin, the more senior population; (2) Area "A" has the shortest exhaust period; and (3) Area "A" has the greater population that would be impacted by an area code change.

Witness Shannon Staub

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of June, 2001.

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By: 

Kathleen F. Schneider, Esq.
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(direct all future correspondence to
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. 000604-TL**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by U.S. Mail this 22nd day of June, 2001 to the following:

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