



Public Service Commission

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JUL 23 11:20
COMMISSION
CLERK

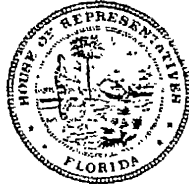
DATE: July 23, 2001
TO: Blanca Bayo, Director of Records and Reporting
FROM: Bob Casey, Regulatory Analyst Supervisor, Division of Competitive Services *PK*
RE: Docket No. 000604-TL, Area Code Relief for the 941 NPA

Please place the attached June 5, 2001 letter from Representative Jerry Paul in the above official docket file. Thank You.

- AFP _____
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- PAI _____
- RGO _____
- SEC _____
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- CTI _____

Casey memo

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
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 FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK



Florida House of Representatives

Jerry Paul
Deputy Majority Whip
Representative, District 71

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2001 JUN 13 AM 10:32
DIVISION OF
COMPETITIVE SERVICES

June 5, 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 Chairman Jacobs:

Thank you for visiting our community and holding hearings on the Area Code Relief Options. 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 and enter them into the record for the hearing on June 18, 2001 in Tallahassee.

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.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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Committees: Utilities and Telecommunications • Elder and Long-Term Care • Criminal Justice Appropriations • Claims

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June 5, 2001
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Also, our community is split by the Myakka 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.

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.

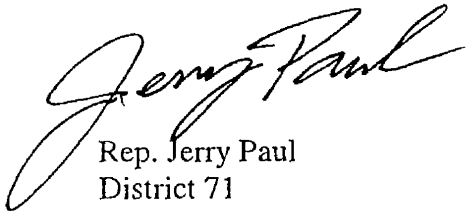
Again, please implement "**alternative #4: Geographic Split – Punta Gorda North**". Please contact me at your earliest convenience to confirm receipt of this communication and to further discuss these matters.

Finally, please be reminded of how important it is that the "941" area code remain with Charlotte County, Englewood and Sarasota County. This is critical to my senior citizens...our "greatest generation".

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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