

SPECIAL REPORT

JANUARY 2000 NO. 1

**FLORIDA
PUBLIC
SERVICE
COMMISSION**

954 AREA CODE

In Florida and around the country, the demand for new telephone numbers has been growing at a rapid rate in recent years, resulting in a shortage of available numbers in many areas. There are a variety of factors involved in this growing demand, including population increases and the development of new technology in the form of fax machines, cellular phones, computer modems and pagers. We are using more telecommunications devices that require phone numbers.

However, an even greater problem is the method used to distribute phone numbers. The Federal Communications Commission, the federal regulatory agency for the telephone industry, requires that every local phone company licensed to do business in a state be assigned phone numbers in blocks of 10,000 -- whether they need that many numbers or not. So, if a small company needs only 1,000 phone numbers to meet the needs of its customers, the excess numbers -- 9,000 -- go unused and are not assignable to another carrier.

Recently, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) was advised by the North American Numbering Plan Administration, the organization that assigns area codes, that the 954 area code is in danger of exhausting its available supply of phone numbers. For this reason, the PSC has begun considering several possible ways of alleviating the number shortage problem in the area. The area code hearing listed to the right of this report has been scheduled to give consumers, businesses and organizations an opportunity to share their opinions on the proposed area code relief plans for the 954 area code. We encourage those who are affected by the proposed changes to attend the hearing.

The PSC staff is scheduled to make a recommendation to the Commission on August 3, 2000, and the Commission vote on this matter is scheduled for the August 15, 2000, Agenda Conference.

CUSTOMER HEARING

Request for review of proposed numbering plan relief for the 954 area code.

DOCKET NO. 990457-TL

Wednesday, January 19, 2000
10:00 a.m.
Broward County Governmental
Center - Room 422
115 S. Andrews Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

PSC Staff & Reference Numbers

For technical questions:

Levent Ileri (850) 413-6562
Jonathan Audu (850) 413-6596

For legal questions:

Lee Fordham (850) 413-6226

For general information:

Thelma Crump (850) 413-7087
Robby Cunningham (850) 413-6129
or call toll free 1-800-342-3552
1-800-511-0809 to FAX
Internet: contact@psc.state.fl.us
Home page: <http://www.floridapsc.com>

**AUDIO
ACCESS
TO PSC EVENTS
on the
INTERNET**

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FPSC Commissioners



Joe Garcia

Chairman Joe Garcia was appointed by the late Governor Lawton Chiles in August 1994 to complete a term ending in January 1998, and was then reappointed by Governor Chiles to a new term ending in January 2002. He was installed as Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission in January 1999. Prior to his service on the Commission, he was Executive Director of the Cuban Exodus Relief Fund, the Cuban American National Foundation's private sector resettlement program, and was Assistant Director of the Salvadoran American Foundation, where he coordinated fund-raising efforts for humanitarian relief campaigns. Chairman Garcia is currently Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on International Relations and serves on the NARUC Committee on Consumer Affairs and the NARUC Committee on Communications. He is second Vice Chair of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC). He has also served on the Department of Energy's National Electric and Magnetic Fields Advisory Committee. He received a bachelor of arts degree in politics and public affairs, as well as a law degree, from the University of Miami. He is a director of The Beacon Council and The Latin Chamber of Commerce of USA (CAMACOL).



J. Terry Deason

Commissioner Deason was first appointed by the Florida Public Service Commission Nominating Council in February 1991 for a term ending in January 1995. He has been reappointed to consecutive terms by the late Governor Lawton Chiles and Governor Jeb Bush. Commissioner Deason's current term ends in January 2003. He served as Commission Chairman from January 5, 1993, through January 2, 1995. Commissioner Deason is an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). He currently serves on NARUC's Board of Directors, its Finance and Technology Committee, and its Utility Association Oversight Committee. Prior to his appointment, he served as Chief Regulatory Analyst in the Office of Public Counsel. In that capacity, he was responsible for the coordination of accounting and financial analysis used by the Public Counsel in cases before the Public Service Commission, presented testimony as an expert witness, and consulting with the Public Counsel on technical issues and ratemaking policies concerning regulated utilities in the State of Florida. From 1981 to 1987, he served as Executive Assistant to PSC Commissioner Gerald L. Gunter, during which time he reviewed and analyzed staff recommendations and advised the Commissioner on those recommendations and other pertinent policy determinations. From 1977 to 1981, he served as a Legislative Analyst with the Office of Public Counsel. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and in 1975 received his bachelor of science degree in accounting, summa cum laude, from Florida State University. Deason also received his master of accounting degree from FSU in 1989.



Susan F. Clark

Commissioner Clark was first appointed to the Commission in August 1991 and was recently reappointed to a term ending in 2003. She served as Commission Chairman from January 2, 1995, through January 7, 1997. She served the Commission as General Counsel, representing the Commissioners in all state and federal courts, from 1988 until she was appointed Commissioner. Prior to that, she served as Associate General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel. Before her employment with the Public Service Commission, she was staff attorney with the Florida Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, and was staff attorney for Florida Senate Legislative Services. She received her bachelor's degree in political science and her juris doctor degree from the University of Florida. She is a member of the Florida Bar and is admitted to practice in several federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. She serves as Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on Electricity, and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Electric Industry Restructuring. She represents NARUC on the North American Electric Reliability Council, and is a member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council and the Steering Committee of the National Council on Competition.



E. Leon Jacobs, Jr.

Commissioner Jacobs was appointed by the late Governor Lawton Chiles to a four-year term beginning in January 1998. Prior to his appointment, he was a staff attorney for the House Committees on Tourism and Economic Development, Insurance, and Financial Services in the Florida House of Representatives, where he authored reforms to the state's minority business enterprise programs and managed health insurance and workers' compensation issues. He was staff counsel to the Florida Senate Committee on Reapportionment addressing redistricting issues, which involved support of court appeals of the political districts up through the U.S. Supreme Court. He also was an attorney with the Florida Public Service Commission, where he served as counsel to Commission staff and litigator of administrative proceedings. He is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on Water, chairs NARUC's Ad Hoc Task Force on Y2K Readiness, and is a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Small Systems Working Group under the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. He is also a board member of Child Advocates II of Tallahassee, and a volunteer guardian in the Guardian Ad Litem Program in the Second Judicial Circuit. He formerly served as President of the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee affiliate of Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Jacobs is a member of the Florida Bar. He received a bachelor of technology degree, with honors, in data processing from Florida A&M University, and his juris doctor degree from the College of Law at Florida State University.

Consumer Statements at PSC Hearings

The PSC is interested in what consumers have to say about the request for review of proposed numbering plan relief for the 954 area code. The main purpose of this hearing is to receive comments from the public.

Anyone may make a statement, and speaking is an effective way to let the Commission know how you feel about the case under review. Those consumers who wish to speak should arrive early. The hearing will begin as scheduled and continue until all the consumers have been heard.

At the beginning of the hearing, procedures will be set up to establish an order for testimony. The PSC staff will have sign-up sheets, and consumers will be called in the order of those sheets. The PSC staff will be available to coordinate consumer comments and assist members of the public.

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to the PSC staff may do so at the hearing, orally or in writing. Written comments may be sent to the Commission at: Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850. Your letter will be placed in the correspondence file of this docket (Docket No. 990457-TL). For your convenience, a comment form is attached to this Special Report. You may also call the Commission's toll-free number, **1-800-342-3552**, or **1-800-511-0809** to FAX.

Any person who is unable to attend and who wishes to obtain a copy of the recommendation or the order may do so by writing to: Director, Division of Records and Reporting, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0850.

Florida Public Service Commission

BUREAU OF

Consumer Information and Conservation Education

*2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Betty Easley Conference Center-Room 184
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850*

The Public Service Commission's Bureau of Consumer Information and Conservation Education provides a staff of information specialists who are available to answer questions from the media and from Florida consumers.

To reach a PSC media representative, please call the Bureau of Consumer Information and Conservation Education during business hours: (850) 413-6100 or send a fax to 1-800-511-0809. See the PSC's Internet home page at <http://www.floridapsc.com>.

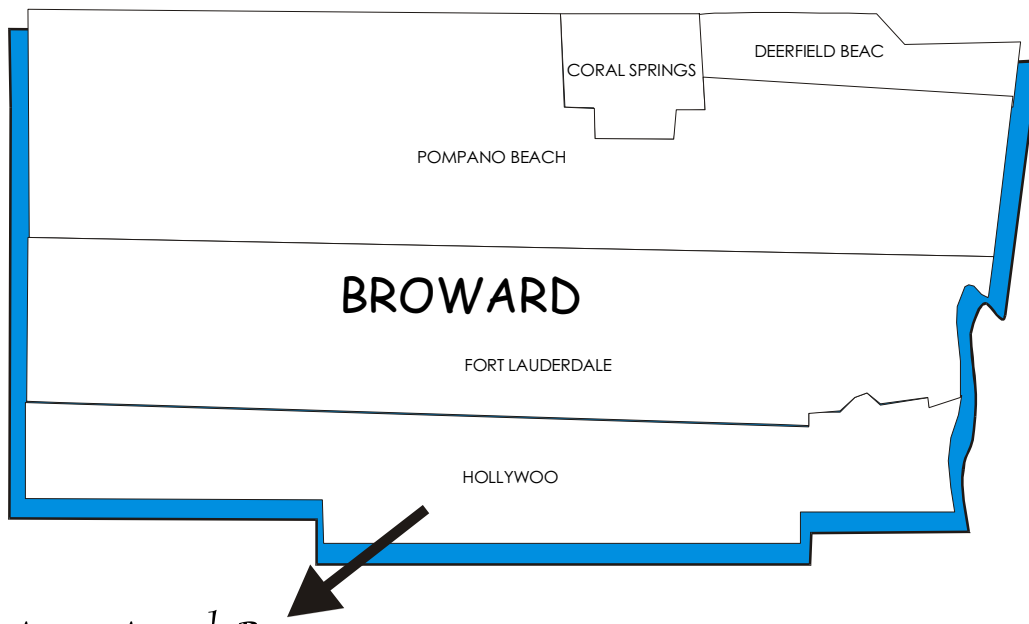
Audio Access to PSC Events on the Internet

Public Service Commission hearings are accessible as live audio broadcasts on the PSC's Internet Home Page. To access a hearing, you must have a computer equipped with a soundboard and speakers. The necessary helper application software, Progressive Networks' Real Player, may be downloaded at the PSC Web site.

The PSC's Home Page address is **<http://www.floridapsc.com>**. After logging onto the home page, the listener must choose the option, "**Audio Access to PSC Events**," and follow the prompts.

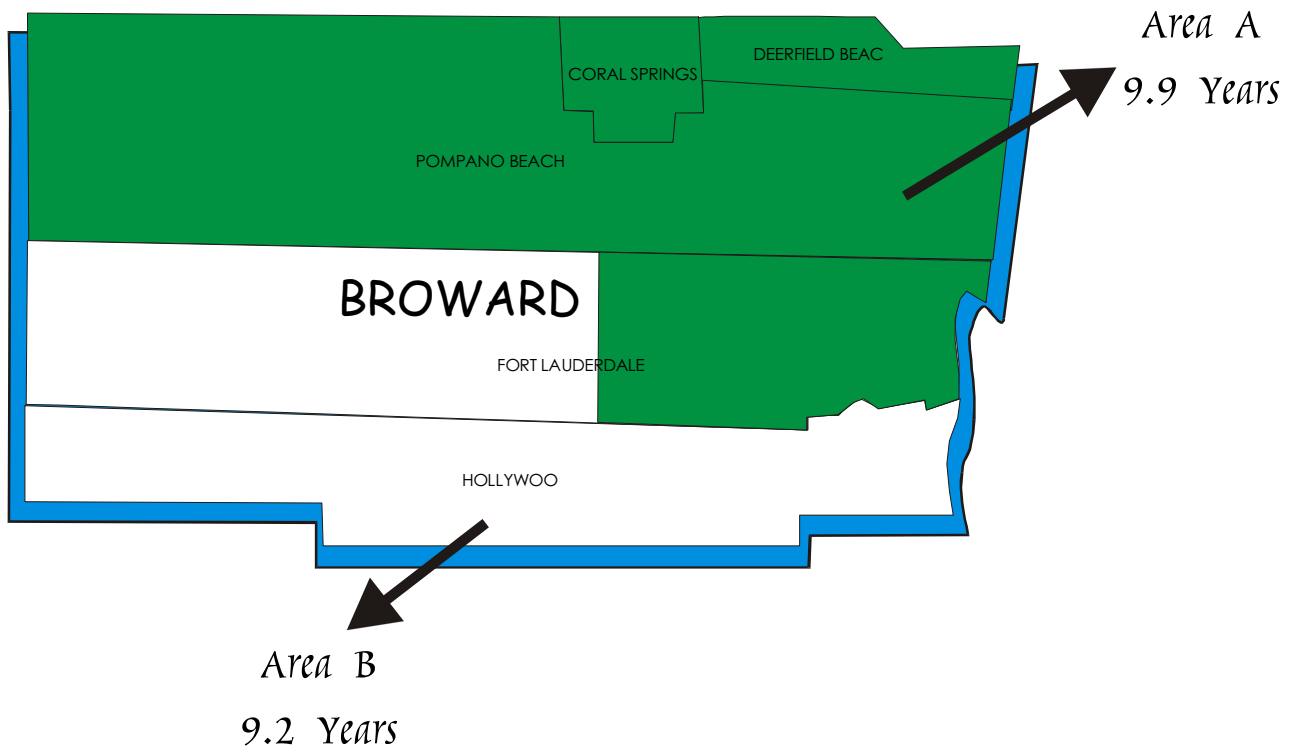


954 Area Code
Alternative #1
Distributed Overlay

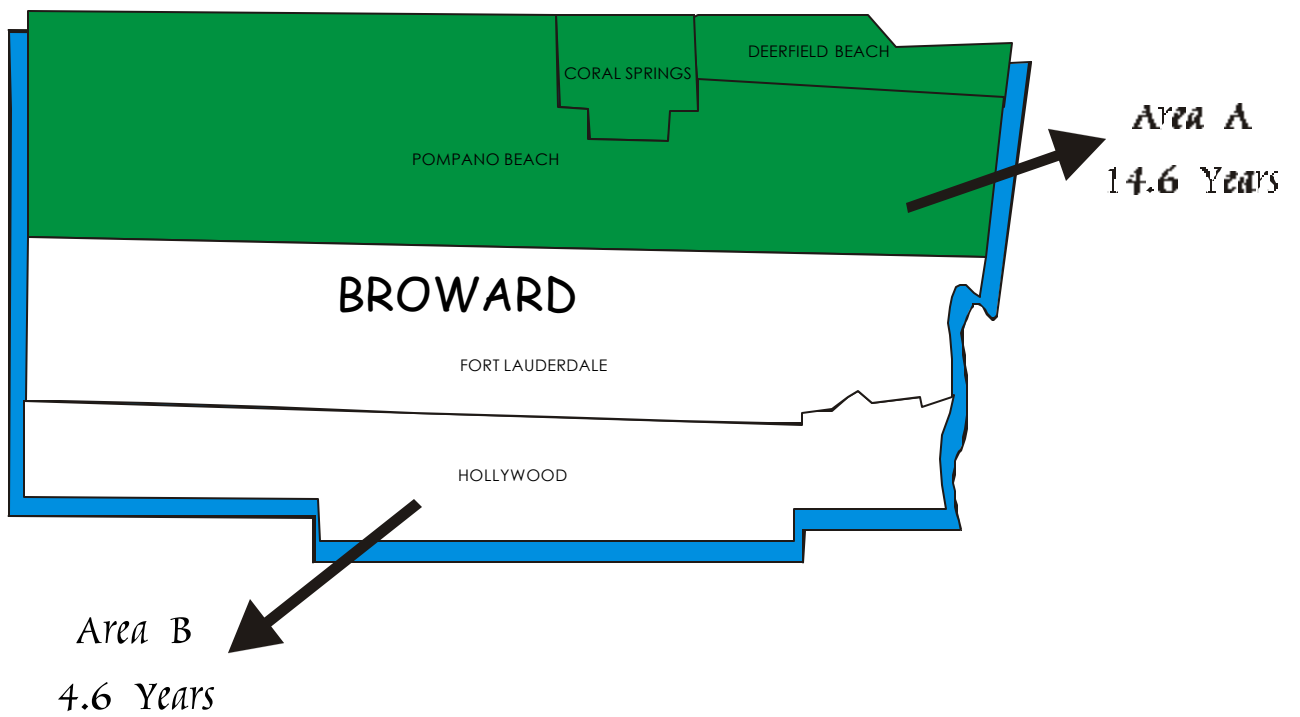


Areas A and B
9.5 Years
(All Exchanges)

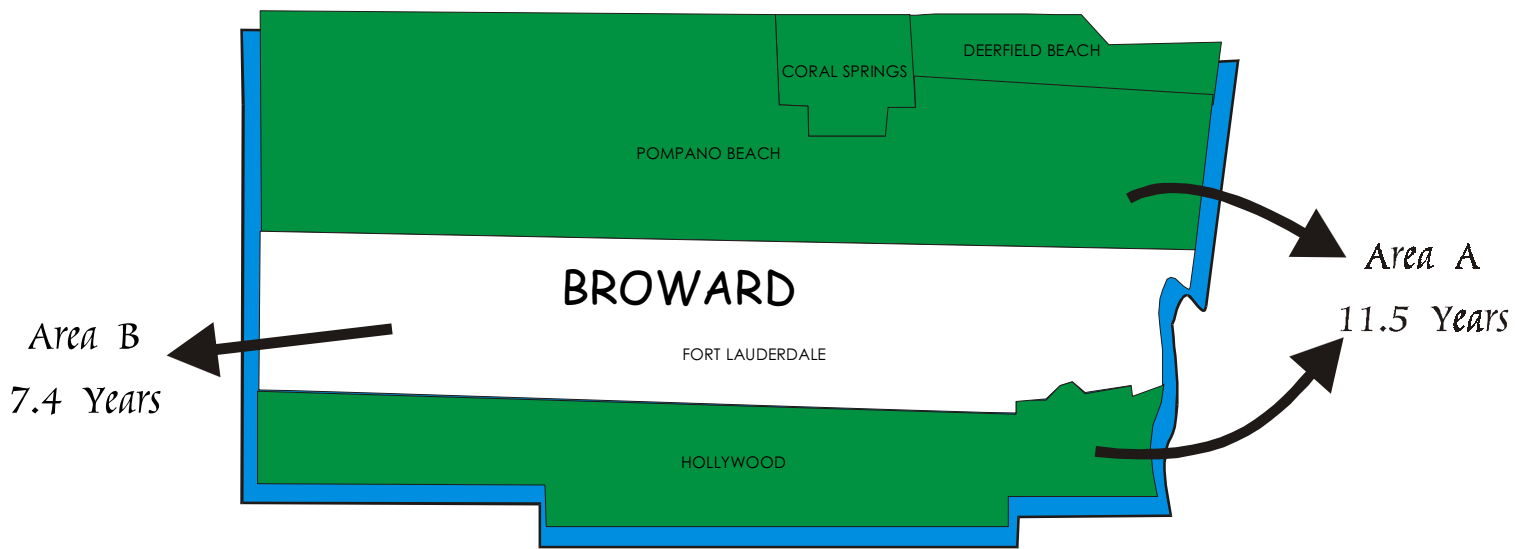
954 Area Code
Alternative #2
Geographic Split

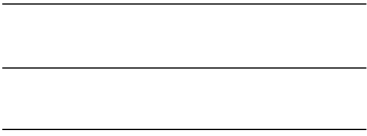


954 Area Code
Alternative #3
Geographic Split



954 Area Code
Alternative #4
Geographic Split





STAMP

Florida Public Service Commission
Division of Records and Reporting
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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