



SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Attorney

1660 Ringling Blvd.
Second Floor
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Jorge L. Fernández
County Attorney

March 20, 1999

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

Re: Docket No. 99-0223-TL

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed is the original and fifteen(15) copies of the pre-filed testimony of Shannon Staub, Gregg D. Feagans, William W. Couch and James R. Ewing on behalf of Sarasota County, Florida, a party 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.

RECEIVED & FILED
[Signature]
FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

Sincerely,
[Signature]
Kathleen F. Schneider
Assistant County Attorney

- ACK _____
- AFA _____
- APP _____
- CAF _____
- CMU lleri
- CTR _____
- EAG _____
- LEG _____
- LIN Staub
- OPC _____
- RCH _____
- SEC _____
- WAS _____
- OTH _____

Cc: Service List

KFS:arb

Telephone: (941) 316-7272 Fax: (941) 316-7267

ADMINISTRATION MAIL ROOM
MAR 22 10 05 AM '99
Couch
Ewing
Feagans
Staub
DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE
03673 MAR 22 99
03672 MAR 22 99
03671 MAR 22 99
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

ORIGINAL

1 **BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

2

3 **In Re:** Request for Review of Proposed

Docket 99-0223-TL

4 Numbering Plan Relief for the 941

5 Area Code

6

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY

7

OF SHANNON STAUB

8

9

Q. Please state your name and your business address for the record.

10

11

A. Shannon Staub, Sarasota County Government, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, Florida.

12

13

Q. What is your position with Sarasota County Government?

14

A. I am Currently serving as Chair of the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners.

15

16

Q. How long have you been a member of the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners?

17

18

A. I was elected to a 4-year term on the Board as the Commissioner from District 3 in November 1996. District 3 includes that portion of the Englewood community which is located in Sarasota County.

19

20

21

Q. This Docket No. 99-0223-TL is before the Public Service Commission to consider which portions of the current 941 Area Code service area should retain the 941 designation in light of the imminent area code split. The 941 NPA Exhaust

22

23

24

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

03671 MAR 22 2000

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

1 **Recommended Relief Plan** recommends that the Northwest
2 split combine Sarasota County with Bartow, Bradenton,
3 Haines City, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Palmetto, Venice and
4 Winter Haven, and that the 941 Area Code be retained for that
5 portion of the split. The balance of the current 941 Area Code
6 service area, consisting of Arcadia, Avon Park, Bonita Springs,
7 Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Naples, North Naples, North Fort
8 Myers, Okeechobee, Port Charlotte and Sebring, the Southeast
9 split, would be given a new area code. According to the **Relief**
10 **Plan**, the exhaust period for the revised 941 Area Code service
11 area is forecast to be 5.2 years. As County Commissioner, do
12 you have any concerns about this proposed split and the
13 forecast exhaust period?

14 A. Yes. Regarding the proposed boundary lines for the split, I have
15 very strong concerns about the impact on the Englewood
16 community, which straddles both Sarasota County and Charlotte
17 County. However, I realize that issue is the subject of Docket No.
18 99-0184 and I will reserve my comments on that issue for the
19 Englewood docket.

20 With respect to the proposed numbering plan relief for the 941
21 Area Code, I have two major concerns. First, approximately three
22 (3) years ago, Sarasota County's area code was changed from 813
23 to 941. While I understand the need to split area code service areas

1 because of the exhaustion of available numbers, the Public Service
2 Commission and NANPA should be cognizant of the expense and
3 confusion which result from an area code change. The impact is
4 magnified when those changes occur with such frequency.
5 Specifically, there is a significant impact on the governmental
6 emergency services with respect to telephone alert systems and
7 paging programs. This issue will be addressed in more detail by
8 Gregg Feagans, the County's Emergency services Director. There
9 is also a significant impact on continued economic development in
10 the County. It is extremely expensive and time-consuming for
11 small businesses, such as those that predominate in Sarasota
12 County, to effectuate the changes necessary for an area code
13 change. Mr. Bill Couch of the Sarasota County Chamber of
14 Commerce will address these matters in more detail.
15 Also, Sarasota County has a large tourist industry which depends
16 in large part on printed advertisements which are disseminated all
17 over the world. A change in area code has the very real potential
18 of negatively impacting those businesses by having to incur the
19 expense to reprint and re-distribute these materials not to mention
20 missed bookings due to a failure to have the right telephone
21 number.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

Finally, demographically, a significant percentage of Sarasota County citizens are senior citizens who find frequent changes of this kind extremely confusing and unsettling.

Of course, I realize that other coastal communities in Florida have similar problems. However, these problems coupled with the fact that the number of exchanges in the proposed Northwest split exceed the number of exchanges in the proposed Southeast split support the conclusion that the Northwest split, which includes Sarasota County should retain the 941 Area Code.

Q. If the Commission were to consider alternatives to the proposed Northwest/Southeast split, would you have any recommendation?

A. Yes. My principal concern with respect to an area code change is the negative financial impact it has on government offices and commercial businesses. While area code changes are inevitable, the impact would be considerably lessened if the new service areas could be smaller so as to lengthen the exhaust period. As I mentioned earlier, the projected exhaust time for the proposed change is 5.2 years and the last exhaust period was only 3 years. It would seem to me that with a little more planning, those exhaust periods could be extended. According to the NPA Code Relief Planning & Notification Guidelines, it is recommended that relief activity be implemented that prevents customers from having to

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
DOCKET NO. 99-0223-TL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by Federal Express or facsimile the 22 day of March, 1999 to the following:

Mr. Frank Heaton
Cellular One
2100 Electronics Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33912

Ms. Beverly Y. Menars
c/o Ms. Margo B. Hammar
GTE Florida Inc.
106 East College Ave. - Ste. 810
Tallahassee, FL 32301-7704

F.B. (Ben) Poag
Sprint-Florida, Inc
P.O. Box 2214 (MS FLTLH00107)
Tallahassee, FL 32316-2214

Marty Burton, Esq.
Charlotte County Attorney's Office
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1094



Kathleen F. Schneider, Esq.