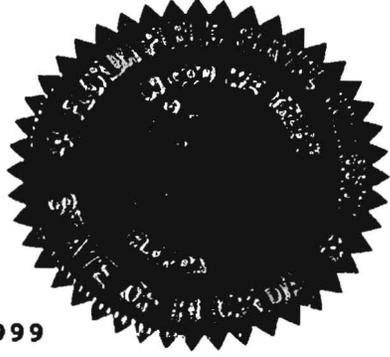


BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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 In the Matter of : DOCKET NO. 981941-TL  
 :  
 Investigation into telephone :  
 exchange boundary issues in :  
 South Polk County (Ft. Meade :  
 area). :  
 -----  
 Investigation into boundary : DOCKET NO. 990184-TL  
 issues in South Sarasota and :  
 North Charlotte Counties :  
 (Englewood area). :  
 -----  
 Request for review of proposed: DOCKET NO. 990223-TL  
 numbering plan relief for the :  
 941 area code. :  
 -----



PROCEEDINGS: BARTOW STAFF WORKSHOP  
 DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 1999  
 TIME: Commenced at 10:00 a.m.  
 PLACE: Board of County Commission  
 Administration Building  
 330 West Church Street  
 Bartow, Florida

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 FPSC DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING

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 FPSC Division of Records  
 and Reporting

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3 Services.

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5 ILERI, FPSC Division of Communications

6 CHARLES REHWINKEL, Sprint

7 CHARLIE BECK, Office of Public Counsel

8 THOMAS FOLEY, Sprint

9 MIKE SCOBIE, KIM CASWELL, GTE

10 SANDY TOKAREC, NANPA

11 STAN WASHER, NANPA LOCKHEED MARTIN

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1                   (The following has been transcribed from  
2 tapes provided by the Florida Public Service  
3 Commission Staff:)

4                   MS. MCKINNEY: Good morning, everybody. My  
5 name is June McKinney, and I'm with the legal division  
6 of the Public Service Commission. We'd like to  
7 welcome you here today for the 941 area code workshop.  
8 We're going to begin by taking appearances.

9                   MR. ILERI: Good morning. My name is Levent  
10 Ileri. I'm an engineer with the Florida Public  
11 Service Commission and I'm responsible for the  
12 technical aspect of this case, and if you have any  
13 questions, you can call me at the number which is  
14 listed in our agenda.

15                  MR. BARRETT: good morning. My name is  
16 Michael Barrett, Florida Public Service Commission.  
17 I'll be assisting technical Staff.

18                  MS. SHELFER: My name is Ann Shelfer. I'm  
19 also with the Public Service Commission, and I  
20 would -- we'll finish taking appearances, and then  
21 I'll introduce Mr. Washer.

22                  MR. BECK: Good morning. My name is Charlie  
23 Beck. I'm with the Office of Public Counsel, which is  
24 separate from the Commission, but our office  
25 represents customers before the Commission.

1 MS. MCKINNEY: Will any industry  
2 representatives please stand up and introduce  
3 themselves at this time?

4 MR. FOLEY: Thomas Foley, Sprint.

5 MR. SCOBIE: Mike Scobie with GTE.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible overlap.)  
7 Sorry.

8 MS. CASWELL: Kim Caswell with GTE.

9 MS. MCKINNEY: Thank you. And we're going  
10 to follow the agenda as printed that you received with  
11 your special report.

12 At this time Ann Shelfer will introduce our  
13 guest, Stan Washer.

14 MS. SHELFER: Mr. Washer is going to do a  
15 presentation to discuss the various relief plans. He  
16 is the senior NPA relief planner with NANPA and he has  
17 a presentation.

18 MR. WASHER: Good morning, ladies and  
19 gentlemen. My name is Stan Washer with Lockheed  
20 Martin NANPA, which is North American Numbering Plan  
21 Administration, and as part of our responsibilities in  
22 the United States, we initiate the planning efforts  
23 and conduct industry meetings to calculate the relief  
24 planning for area codes throughout the country that  
25 are planning to exhaust in a near term; near term

1 being sometime within three years.

2 Back in the summer of '98, in July, the  
3 industry met to discuss relief alternatives for relief  
4 of the 941 area code. And I'll come back to that in a  
5 few minutes. But some of the alternatives that are  
6 considered when the industry gets together to discuss  
7 these matters would be the area code splits. A lot of  
8 you have heard about area code splits. You've seen  
9 them in action here in the state of Florida, even in  
10 the Tampa/St. Pete area where 941 was split away from  
11 the 813 area code just a few years ago.

12 So it's something that the general public  
13 and the industry understands fairly well, and you do  
14 understand in the case of an area code split, a given  
15 geographic area is split according to some boundary.  
16 Hopefully it could be a natural boundary. Sometimes  
17 it's not, but, you know, some boundary is determined  
18 such that the end users or calling parties on one side  
19 of the boundary retain the exhausting area code and  
20 customers on the other side of the boundary have to  
21 change the area code portion of their 10-digit  
22 telephone number.

23 Another alternative besides the area code  
24 splits would be an area code overlay. In this  
25 scenario, an exhausting area -- area code, rather, the

1 customers in an exhausting area code can keep all of  
2 their numbers. A brand new area code is put down or  
3 overlaid on top of the geographic area served by the  
4 exhausting -- in this case 941 -- area code, such that  
5 you have two area codes serving the same geographic  
6 area. Customers don't have to change their telephone  
7 numbers.

8           On the other hand, that does introduce the  
9 concept or the requirement that you have to dial 10  
10 digits for all local calls, even to your neighbor  
11 across the street.

12           Back on the case of dialing issues, calls  
13 within the area code -- I mentioned that generally  
14 there would be a boundary drawn, and half the  
15 customers change the area code number and half would  
16 retain that -- local calls within these area codes,  
17 whether it's the old exhausting one, 941, or the new  
18 one, can still be dialed as a seven-digit dialed call.  
19 Local calls that may be dialed across an area code  
20 boundary will be dialed as 10-digit; that is, you have  
21 to dial the area code.

22           Other types of generic relief alternatives  
23 might include a boundary realignment where you have an  
24 established area code boundary such as the one between  
25 941 and 813. And for whatever reason, back when that

1 split occurred, perhaps one side didn't grow quite as  
2 fast as has been anticipated, and there were just, you  
3 know, relatively speaking a larger amount of  
4 assignable codes left there than on the other side so  
5 that the boundary might be realigned or moved to take  
6 in some of the other area and some of those codes  
7 could go to the area that need the codes.

8           In thinking about that and looking at the  
9 way that it might be established, that is considered  
10 to be a short-term solution, and it causes a lot of  
11 customer disruption, because in some cases and  
12 probably a lot of cases, depending on where the  
13 boundary is drawn, customers would have to change the  
14 entire 10-digit telephone number, not just the area  
15 code.

16           So anyway, those are some sort of the  
17 generic types of relief. There are variations of each  
18 of these, especially with the overlays.

19           The industry met back in July -- let me  
20 throw up a map. The overlay, in looking at the  
21 existing 941 area code, an overlay would put a brand  
22 new area code right on top of this entire area.  
23 Existing customers would keep their 941 numbers, the  
24 full ten-digit numbers, but they would have to dial 10  
25 digit local calls to somebody in the other area code.

1 Well, not only in the other area code, but anybody,  
2 because the FCC has mandated that in an overlay  
3 situation all local calls would be dialed as 10  
4 digits.

5           The split alternative that the industry  
6 looked at back in July shows the area code split  
7 boundary up toward the north there just along the Polk  
8 County boundary with one exception. And generally  
9 this boundary line does follow the serving area  
10 between GTE and Sprint. It follows the existing local  
11 access and transport area boundary as determined back  
12 in 1984 when the Bell system split away from AT&T and  
13 local calling areas and expanded local calling areas  
14 were established. And back at that time the Fort  
15 Meade exchange was included in that south LATA even  
16 though it is in Polk County.

17           So this was -- you know, because of  
18 perceived community interest as well as local calling  
19 patterns, the industry agreed to go ahead and  
20 recommend a split at the LATA county -- LATA boundary,  
21 rather. And I don't have to tell you folks about the  
22 county and the community of interest, because that's  
23 why you're here this morning. So we'll come back to  
24 that in a minute.

25           The basic recommendation, then, would be

1 that a new area code would be assigned to the area to  
2 the south. The area to the north and west would  
3 retain the 941. Some of the considerations there  
4 would be the number of customers, the number of  
5 business customers, the number of wireless sets that  
6 might have to be changed, such as cellular folks. And  
7 it was thought that that area might be growing a  
8 little bit faster than the south, though, you know,  
9 different things and business change from time to  
10 time, and the situation possibly has changed since  
11 July.

12 But at any rate, that ended up being the  
13 industry recommendation to the Florida Public Service  
14 Commission, and that's what -- on behalf of the  
15 industry what we at Lockheed Martin put together in a  
16 filing and sent to the industry.

17 And at this time, that's the short and sweet  
18 presentation, and we'll be available to answer  
19 questions again in a few minutes.

20 MS. MCKINNEY: Some of you signed up to ask  
21 questions. If you didn't sign up, if you could go to  
22 Thelma in the back and do so. Charlie Beck will call  
23 you up individually if you signed up to speak or ask  
24 questions, and if you'll just come to the podium over  
25 here to my right, and that's where we'll address your

1 issues.

2 Please make sure that you say your name,  
3 spell your last name and give us your correct address.  
4 Thank you.

5 MR. BECK: I'm going to call everybody in  
6 the order that you signed up, and I'm only going to  
7 call people at first who checked the box saying they  
8 wished to speak. After we've called everybody who's  
9 indicated they wish to speak, we'll give an  
10 opportunity for anybody else who may have changed  
11 their mind and wish to come up also.

12 Our first speaker is Bill McDermott.

13 - - - - -

14 BILL MCDERMOTT

15 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

16 DIRECT STATEMENT

17 MR. MCDERMOTT: Thank you very much. And  
18 good morning everyone. My name is Bill McDermott.  
19 I'm with the Central Florida Development Council. We  
20 are a county-wide development agency. One of the  
21 interesting things about our agency is we are both a  
22 county agency as well as a representative of 13  
23 chambers of commerce throughout the county, so we have  
24 a broad based business support, and that is really the  
25 angle or the issue that I'm sort of addressing this

1 morning is how this will impact businesses.

2 I've got some materials that I would like to  
3 provide to you, and briefly I just want to read this  
4 very short letter into the -- because it really states  
5 that position that we're taking on this whole issue.

6 "Please accept the enclosed materials in  
7 support of Polk County maintaining the current 941  
8 area code. It is the belief that a change in the area  
9 code would be costly and disruptive to many businesses  
10 who operate in the Polk County area."

11 "Additionally we request that the Fort Meade  
12 LATA situation maintain the 941 area code as well. It  
13 makes no sense to isolate a community within a county  
14 by placing it in a different area code."

15 Thank you for listening to this material --  
16 or the comments. What I've got for you is a series of  
17 media alerts that we put out in other offices. We've  
18 collected most of the media coverage that was --  
19 resulted in the interest in this particular topic. I  
20 also have several letters from some of the chambers.  
21 I have a resolution from Eagle Lake and the City of  
22 Mulberry also stating their opposition to any changes  
23 in the current area code situation.

24 I understand that the City of Bartow has  
25 also passed a resolution as well as Polk County, and I

1 believe the county attorney is here this morning to  
2 present that to you.

3 In addition, and lastly, is there is  
4 approximately 100 or so faxed back responses that we  
5 got from businesses around the county which is also  
6 contained in this material. So I would like to, at  
7 this point in time, give you the material, and if  
8 anyone has any questions for me --

9 MS. MCKINNEY: Thank you, Mr. McDermott.

10 MR. BECK: Ralph Moore.

11 MR. MOORE: I believe this man answered my  
12 questions.

13 MR. BECK: All right. Merrell Mickey --  
14 sorry -- Mr. Petty.

15 - - - - -

16 MERRELL PETTY

17 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

18 DIRECT STATEMENT

19 MR. PETTY: Yes. My name is Merrell Petty,  
20 better known as Mickey. I live in Eagle Lake at 1170  
21 11th Street. I currently serve as executive director  
22 of the Eagle Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

23 I might say that at one point for about six  
24 years, I lived outside of Fort Meade at the time when  
25 the only place that you could call without a charge

1 was in Fort Meade. I understand that's been changed a  
2 little bit now and I'm glad for those -- for that.

3 At the time that I lived there, I would say  
4 this; That I related more to the northern part of the  
5 area rather than going south, considerably more so;  
6 Bartow, Lakeland, Winter Haven area. And now, of  
7 course, I live in Eagle Lake.

8 Our chamber took the position in opposition  
9 to any change on the area code, including Fort Meade.  
10 Our city council -- I don't know whether the gentleman  
11 has received -- a resolution was passed by our city  
12 council also opposing any change in the 941 area code,  
13 including Fort Meade.

14 MS. MCKINNEY: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. PETTY: thank you.

16 MR. BECK: Michael Stedem.

17 - - - - -

18 MICHAEL STEDEM

19 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

20 DIRECT STATEMENT

21 MR. STEDEM: Good morning. I'm Mike Stedem,  
22 and I'm the Ford dealer in Fort Meade. I'd like to  
23 especially thank Ms. McKinney and Charlie Beck who  
24 have been very helpful in this process.

25 I'd just like to offer an historical

1 perspective. When I moved to Fort Meade in 1983, the  
2 office for United Telephone at that time was in Avon  
3 Park. And as someone already said, at that time the  
4 only place you could call in 1983 without it being a  
5 toll call were the 2,000 phones in Fort Meade.

6 When I called for service, the person who  
7 handled it said, well, that's great, your phone bill  
8 is only going to be \$3.80 a month. I said, it ought  
9 to be free; anyplace you've got to call is a toll  
10 call.

11 I became involved in 1984. We got extended  
12 area service with the help of Charlie's partner, Jack  
13 Shreve, to Bartow, and then in 1995 again an ad hoc  
14 committee with the City of Fort Meade. We were  
15 allowed to get extended area service to Lakeland, and  
16 that was done by the Public Service Commission by  
17 substantiating how many calls were made to Lakeland.  
18 That's why -- we couldn't get it to Winter Haven  
19 because there weren't enough calls there.

20 So from an historical perspective, obviously  
21 Fort Meade doesn't want to be disenfranchised from the  
22 rest of the county. And I realize it is still  
23 possible for us to have another area code and still  
24 have the service that we have here presently where it  
25 won't be long distance to Bartow. That doesn't solve

1 the concern. It's still a concern. We are part of  
2 the county. It is only 2,000 phones after all. The  
3 area on the map looks a lot bigger, but it's only  
4 2,000 phones.

5 So we would certainly appreciate your  
6 consideration. And June was very helpful with that,  
7 and we know there will be a workshop this afternoon in  
8 Fort Meade, and we'd like to thank you for that and  
9 stress how important it is that we remain part of Polk  
10 County.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BECK: Thank you. Mark Carpanini.

13 - - - - -

14 MARK CARPANINI

15 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

16 DIRECT STATEMENT

17 MR. CARPANINI: Good morning. My name is  
18 Mark Carpanini, C-A-R-P-A-N-I-N-I, Post Office Box 60,  
19 Bartow.

20 On the 15th of December of last year, the  
21 Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution  
22 that I'd like to read into the record.

23 "Whereas all of Polk County is currently  
24 included in a single telephone area code, 941, and  
25 whereas it has been proposed that Polk County be

1 divided into two area codes; and whereas the division  
2 of Polk County into more than one area code would be  
3 extremely detrimental to commercial, personal and  
4 governmental communications throughout Polk counties;  
5 and whereas the division of Polk County into more than  
6 one area code tends to defeat any sense of community  
7 within Polk County; and whereas the division of Polk  
8 County into more than one area code tends to confuse  
9 consumers and complicate telephone bills; and whereas  
10 the citizens of Fort Meade only recently won the hard  
11 fought battle to be included with the rest of Polk  
12 County telephone service area; and whereas the  
13 division of Polk County into more than one area would  
14 be disruptive to business and would have an attendant  
15 adverse economic impact, now therefore be it resolved  
16 by the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County  
17 Florida in regular session duly assembled that it  
18 strongly opposes the division of Polk County into more  
19 than one telephone area code and urges the Florida  
20 Public Service Commission to refrain from dividing  
21 Polk County into more than one area code."

22 I'd like to add to that, just building on  
23 what Bill McDermott said, Polk County as you know,  
24 consists of 17 different municipalities and the Board  
25 of County Commissioners is hard at work trying to

1 establish a sense of community for Polk County over a  
2 wide and diverse geographic area.

3           The division of Polk County into more than  
4 one area code certainly can't help to foster that  
5 effort. I would point out that Polk County enjoys  
6 currently the privilege of being divided into three  
7 different water management districts from a  
8 governmental perspective and is served by two separate  
9 Department of Environmental Protection service areas,  
10 and I'm sure there are other instances of  
11 fragmentation of governmental services, at least on a  
12 state level, that I'm missing.

13           My point is, the fragmentation is  
14 counterproductive to what the Board of County  
15 Commissioners is trying to accomplish, and I think  
16 it's certainly counterproductive to the efforts of the  
17 citizens in Fort Meade. And we would support their  
18 efforts and we would urge you to take whatever steps  
19 you can to cut Polk County out of the plan.

20           I heard that it was only 2,000 phones. I've  
21 got to believe that's doable. I hope it's doable, and  
22 would urge you to do so.

23           With your permission, I'd like to tender the  
24 resolution.

25           MS. MCKINNEY: Thank you.

1 MR. CARPANINI: Thank you.

2 MR. BECK: James Schaille.

3 - - - - -

4 JAMES SCHAILL

5 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

6 DIRECT STATEMENT

7 MR. SCHAILL: Good morning. My name is  
8 James Schaille, S-C-H-A-I-L-L. I reside at 219 North  
9 Pine Avenue in Fort Meade. I'm a fourth generation  
10 Fort Meadean, as you might say. My father was the  
11 mayor in Fort Meade in the early '50s and he told me  
12 something that seems to be coming true here today if  
13 this passes.

14 Fort Meade is the stepchild of Polk County.  
15 I've worked for the Polk County Sheriff's Office and  
16 five sheriffs. I've been employed there over 27  
17 years. I don't want to believe that. Fort Meade has  
18 a lot of retirees in their community. Some of them  
19 are forgetful. Some of them are senile. I think this  
20 would hamper them. We have several businesses in Fort  
21 Meade. They would have to -- just the added expense  
22 of changing the area code, to me, would be very wrong,  
23 and I think it's very wrong if they change the area  
24 code in this town.

25 I talked to several people. They all seemed

1 to agree with me, and I would appreciate it if you  
2 would reconsider this, because it would cause a severe  
3 hardship for several people that, to me, is very  
4 unnecessary.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. BECK: Thank you very much.

7 Commissioner Melony Bell.

8 - - - - -

9 MELONY BELL

10 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

11 DIRECT STATEMENT

12 MS. BELL: Good morning. My name is Melony  
13 Bell. I am a Fort Meade city commissioner, past  
14 mayor. I reside at 412 North Lanil Avenue, Fort  
15 Meade, Florida.

16 I am here on behalf of the citizens of Fort  
17 Meade to ask that you reconsider this area code  
18 change. It's just a sad situation that we are in  
19 Sprint, that we are cut off from the rest of the  
20 county.

21 There has been numerous complaints of the  
22 Commission in the past years that we are with Sprint  
23 and that we're not with a -- main telephone is GTE  
24 with the rest of the county. It's sad that we can't  
25 call any other cities except Lakeland and Bartow.

1 It's long distance to call Mulberry, Lake Wells,  
2 Frostproof, and we deal with those cities every day.

3 I would like to thank Charles Beck for his  
4 response time on this. He has been very nice to us.  
5 And I also would like to thank the other cities for  
6 coming here and bringing the resolutions and standing  
7 for us.

8 I guess that's it. I would like -- I know  
9 this isn't the proper place, but I would like the  
10 Public Service Commission to come back and revisit us  
11 and see if we can get something started that we can  
12 maybe try to get GTE to buy Sprint out and -- so that  
13 we can have other calls in the -- Polk County.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. BECK: Thank you. Robert Snead.

16 MR. SNEAD: She just answered my question.

17 MR. BECK: James Drumm.

18 - - - - -

19 JAMES DRUMM

20 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

21 DIRECT STATEMENT

22 MR. DRUMM: Good morning. My name is James  
23 Drumm, last name D-R-U-M-M. I am the city manager of  
24 Lake Alfred, and my address is 155 East Pomelo Street,  
25 Lake Alfred, Florida.

1           I'm here today representing a couple of  
2 organizations; first off, the City of Lake Alfred.  
3 The City Commission passed Resolution 16-98 on  
4 December 21st, 1998, which I believe was forwarded to  
5 you, and that would be a resolution of the city of  
6 Lake Alfred, Florida requesting that the Florida  
7 Public Service Commission -- that the political  
8 boundary of Polk County be the separation between the  
9 94 area -- 941 area code and the new area code.

10           If you do have a copy, I will not go into  
11 the details. However, it does address the business  
12 concerns of Polk County and the isolation of the  
13 community of Fort Meade.

14           But also as another hat that I wear, I am  
15 also chairman of the Polk County Library Cooperative,  
16 and that is an organization that's made up of 13  
17 municipalities including 16 libraries, including the  
18 county library system. It's made up of city managers  
19 and library directors and the county manager.

20           And that board unanimously voted to  
21 communicate to the Public Service Commission that the  
22 City of Fort Meade not be separated and isolated in a  
23 different area code and that the board voted to  
24 support that the Polk County be served by one area  
25 code. So we'd also like to communicate that.

1           We've had -- as a library system in the new  
2 age of the 21st century, we're looking to  
3 communicate -- libraries aren't books any more. We're  
4 looking to communicate through computer systems and  
5 through modern communications, and have found quite a  
6 lot of difficulty in Fort Meade in the fact that it  
7 has been served by a separate telephone company, and  
8 have had much, much better luck with the GTE system,  
9 which is, I guess, some of the concerns that Mayor  
10 Bell had covered.

11           But the concern there is that the difficulty  
12 of the area code would only add into linking these  
13 communities of Polk County together for communication  
14 efforts. And we'd just like to make that be known for  
15 the record.

16           And I guess another hat that I wear is the  
17 president-elect of the Lake Alfred Chamber of  
18 Commerce, so I will just join along that the Chamber  
19 of Commerce of Lake Alfred would also support that the  
20 county be united in one area code.

21           Thank you.

22           MR. BECK: Thank you. Sheri Grimes.

23

24

25



1 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

2 DIRECT STATEMENT

3 MR. MORROW: Good morning. My name is Ron  
4 Morrow. I'm the executive director of the East Polk  
5 Committee of 100. We're kind of a subset of what you  
6 heard from Bill McDermott earlier on.

7 Members of my group are the 11 cities and  
8 towns on the east side plus their chambers of commerce  
9 on the east side of this county.

10 My only request is keep the county whole.  
11 You know, geographic limits are such that people can  
12 remember that that's a 941 code, but if you have to  
13 constantly recycle that, well, wait a minute, there's  
14 a jog down there that's not 941, that doesn't make any  
15 sense. You look at that territory on that map up  
16 there, we are one big county. We ought to be that.

17 Just to add to that, recently I journeyed to  
18 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They've got two and a half  
19 million people in Allegheny County, and they have just  
20 within the last year and a half reached this critical  
21 mass apparently and started to overlay area codes  
22 within the county without any geographical definition.  
23 And when you ask somebody what somebody's phone number  
24 is, they don't know. They can be across the street  
25 from one another and have a different area code.

1           And, you know, that wouldn't be quite that  
2 bad here, but let's not start it in this county.  
3 Let's keep Fort Meade part of our county.

4           Thanks.

5           MR. BECK: Thank you. Representative  
6 Putnam.

7   - - - - -

8                           REPRESENTATIVE ADAM PUTNAM  
9 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

10   DIRECT STATEMENT

11           MR. PUTNAM: Thank you and welcome to Polk  
12 County. We're glad that you all could take time to  
13 hear some of the concerns of our citizens.

14           And having been on the other side of this  
15 podium on an occasion, I will keep my remarks brief,  
16 because I know what it's like to be in that hot seat.  
17 But I want to echo the concerns of the citizens  
18 throughout Polk County who have very serious  
19 reservations about dividing Polk County.

20           Fort Meade is socially, culturally and  
21 commercially not just linked, but dependent on the  
22 rest of the county. I'm a former resident of Alturas,  
23 which is a suburb of Fort Meade, and -- (laughter) --  
24 and I can tell you that for the sake of those 2,000  
25 phones, there really has to be a better way that we

1 can work together to find -- other than that really  
2 not even just splitting the county, by taking a lesson  
3 from the Legislature's reapportionment committee and  
4 snaking in and taking in one community of one portion  
5 of one county. And I think that there has to be a  
6 better way of drawing those lines.

7           And certainly Fort Meade doesn't need any  
8 more obstacles to economic development than they  
9 already have. And this clearly is a major barrier to  
10 job creation and economic development and attracting  
11 the types of industry and residents that you would  
12 want, simply because it sends a very clear signal to  
13 the rest of the county that they are a part of  
14 northern Hardee, or that they are somehow different or  
15 unique or less than the rest of the county and are  
16 unable to keep the PSC or who -- or state government  
17 from imposing this burden upon them.

18           And for that I appreciate y'all's  
19 recognition of this and coming to have this hearing,  
20 and I just stand here to say that we stand out here  
21 prepared to help you develop a plan that's acceptable  
22 to all parties. I'm pleased that representatives from  
23 GTE and Sprint are also both here. And we understand  
24 the situation that you're in, but this is not the best  
25 remedy, and I would strongly encourage you to make

1 that line a nice, neat line across the Hardee-Polk  
2 line and leave Fort Meade a part of the rest of  
3 imperial Polk County.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BECK: Thank you very much.

6 I think I tried to call everybody who  
7 indicated they wanted to speak. Is there anybody else  
8 who would like to? Yes, sir; if you could come up and  
9 state your name.

10

- - - - -

11

SCOTT CLANTON

12 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

13

DIRECT STATEMENT

14

MR. CLANTON: Thank you for the opportunity.

15

My name is Scott Clanton, purchasing and warehousing

16

director for the Polk County School Board, and I'm

17

here today representing our superintendent,

18

Mr. Reynolds, and I would like to echo some of the

19

same sentiments that we've heard this morning

20

concerning the Fort Meade area.

21

We would very much be in favor of

22

maintaining our existing dialing plan, including Fort

23

Meade, which would allow us, among other things, to

24

retain our existing dialing plan among all of our

25

schools, again including the Fort Meade schools.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. BECK: Thank you. Is there anybody else  
3 who would like to speak? (No response.)

4 MS. SHELFER: Does anybody have any  
5 questions that we could address?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have one. Anybody  
7 in here for this thing? (Laughter) I've heard  
8 everybody against it.

9 MS. SHELFER: Sir, can you come to the mike?

10 - - - - -

11 RALPH LORE

12 appeared as a witness and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT STATEMENT

14 MR. LORE: Hi. I'm Ralph Lore (phonetic).  
15 I live in Fort Meade.

16 I just have the question. I've heard all  
17 this against. I'd like to know if there's anybody for  
18 this thing. What are we doing here?

19 Thank you.

20 MR. BECK: Maybe I shouldn't speak out, but  
21 I think the lines were drawn originally just to match  
22 the county boundaries, and now that so many people  
23 have come forward and spoken, people are working to  
24 try to correct that.

25 MS. SHELFER: They were drawn to match the

1 LATA boundaries, yes, and the LATA boundaries just  
2 happened to run along -- so -- but that's why we're  
3 here. We're here to listen to the comments and to  
4 make -- to try to decide what is best, and we are  
5 holding a workshop in Fort Meade this afternoon. So  
6 we'll be reviewing it again, but we appreciate you  
7 coming out, appreciate your comments.

8 Mr. Rehwinkel, do you have something you  
9 wish to say?

10 Mr. Rehwinkel is with Sprint.

11 MR. REHWINKEL: Thank you. My name is  
12 Charles Rehwinkel. I'm regulatory counsel for Sprint.  
13 I apologize for not having a tie on. I thought I  
14 could make it down here from Tallahassee in five hours  
15 this morning, and I was about 10 minutes late, so --.

16 I just wanted to say we've been aware of the  
17 concerns of the Fort Meade community for, I guess, a  
18 couple of months now, maybe since the issue was first  
19 brought to our attention, and we've met and talked  
20 among ourselves about it; and we believe that we would  
21 be amenable to a solution that would keep the Fort  
22 Meade customers in the Fort Meade exchange within the  
23 area code that the rest of the Polk County has. And  
24 that's just our preliminary look at it. I think  
25 that's the approach we want to take.

1           We do have some concerns about very small  
2     pockets within Polk County that are the product of  
3     very old engineering configurations of the system, and  
4     that would be in the Bowling Green and around the Avon  
5     Park bombing range area where we serve a very small  
6     number of customers.

7           Changes in this area would cause changes in  
8     calling scopes and would cause maybe significant price  
9     increases for customers. So that's probably a part of  
10    keeping Polk County whole that we would like to avoid.

11           But for the bulk of the customers, the 2,000  
12    that we're here about in Fort Meade, we're willing to  
13    work on a solution there. And so I -- you know, we're  
14    also not necessarily in favor of the exact split. It  
15    was initially proposed for the Commission's  
16    consideration on the LATA boundary basis, and, you  
17    know, getting a LATA boundary changed may be difficult  
18    enough, but we're willing to work with the Commission  
19    and the other parties on that.

20           Thank you. Any questions?

21           MS. SHELFER: Just for clarification. So  
22    based on the information you've heard today, you are  
23    not opposed to moving Fort Meade into the 941 if  
24    that's where the -- the area code that retains it --

25           MR. REHWINKEL: That's right.

1 MS. SHELFER: So it would be with Polk  
2 County? The only concern you have are the small  
3 pockets that may be in Avon Park and Bowling Green --

4 MR. REHWINKEL: Yes.

5 MS. SHELFER: -- but Fort Meade is not a  
6 problem as far as you can tell?

7 MR. REHWINKEL: That's right.

8 MS. SHELFER: Okay. Does that help?  
9 Commissioner Bell?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible remarks  
11 away from microphone.) I don't know if you're aware  
12 of it, but Avon Park is not in Polk County --

13 MR. REHWINKEL: Right. I understand --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible  
15 simultaneous remarks.) If you can explain that, okay.

16 MR. REHWINKEL: I don't have my change map  
17 with me. Mr. Foley has one. But there's a piece of  
18 the exchange that comes up -- and I believe what it  
19 does is take up the administrative -- of the airport  
20 that's just across the Polk County line where the  
21 bombing range is. So it's just because we serve that  
22 customer. We do serve up into Polk County right  
23 there. I don't know the number of customers, but  
24 there's a very small number of customers.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible remark

1 away from microphone.)

2 MS. SHELFER: The information I have,  
3 Mr. Rehwinkel, which probably is the early '90s out of  
4 Bowling Green, there were 176, but that was years and  
5 years and years ago.

6 MR. REHWINKEL: That's in Bowling Green. I  
7 was addressing Avon Park.

8 MS. SHELFER: That was what I had -- the  
9 information on Avon Park. And Bowling Green, I see I  
10 have 114. Like I said, this information is very old.

11 MR. REHWINKEL: I can address the service  
12 issues here or down in Fort Meade. I'd rather address  
13 the issues that are raised by the former mayor. We  
14 can talk about it here or I can talk about it down in  
15 Fort Meade where the customers were likely to be.

16 MS. SHELFER: I believe there may be more  
17 customers here than are at Fort Meade if you want to  
18 go ahead and address it.

19 MR. REHWINKEL: Okay. Sprint recognizes  
20 that as in all parts of our territory, we will have  
21 complaints from customers at times, and these  
22 customers' complaints are taken very seriously. We  
23 recognize that some of them are valid and we work to  
24 correct the problems.

25 We don't think any local exchange company in

1 Florida has a perfect service record, and with the  
2 changes in the industry, work force issues that we're  
3 dealing with today, we have had problems that we  
4 believe we're on the way to correcting.

5           As far as having the Commission address the  
6 issue of putting another provider into Fort Meade,  
7 there's several things I could say to that. First of  
8 all, we welcome the Commission to take a look at this  
9 issue if the customers would so desire. We don't  
10 believe that an area code docket is the appropriate  
11 place for that.

12           As far as whether the Commission has the  
13 authority to require another carrier to come in and  
14 serve, we don't think that's within the jurisdiction  
15 the Commission has been given. We don't think it's  
16 necessary, because competition is authorized within  
17 the state of Florida and another provider can serve.

18           And certainly it would be up to GTE to  
19 decide whether they wanted to serve the area and to  
20 pay the compensation, and I don't think GTE is asking  
21 for that, and we're certainly not -- Fort Meade is not  
22 for sale or we're not in any way wanting to get out of  
23 the business of serving Fort Meade.

24           We've served Fort Meade since 1924, so our  
25 successor, predecessor companies, we're proud of our

1 service record. We're sorry that we've perhaps caused  
2 customers inconvenience at times, and we would be  
3 willing to talk to the folks in Fort Meade about  
4 service issues that they have.

5 But certainly we don't think the solution is  
6 to bring another local exchange company in to serve,  
7 but certainly competition is always welcome in any of  
8 our service territories. That's all I have to say on  
9 that issue on any of your questions.

10 MS. SHELFER: I will say that I do believe  
11 that the transfer territory is within the Commission's  
12 jurisdiction, but that would be argued, like you said,  
13 in a different case. And I don't know that that's the  
14 real issue here. I believe that the issue is that  
15 they want to keep the county whole.

16 MR. REHWINKEL: Yeah. My point about the  
17 transfer territory is I'm not sure it's within the  
18 Commission's authority to order another company to  
19 come and serve an existing company's territory. They  
20 could certainly decide that any company, whether it's  
21 electric or water or telephone company, was not  
22 adequately serving their territory, and I certainly  
23 recognize that.

24 MS. SHELFER: Okay. Thank you for your  
25 comments.

1 MR. REHWINKEL: Thank you.

2 MS. SHELFER: Is there any other comments?  
3 Questions? (No response.)

4 Thank you for coming, and we'll be up here  
5 if you have any other questions you want to ask.

6 Thanks again.

7 (Thereupon the workshop concluded.)

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1 STATE OF FLORIDA)  
2 COUNTY OF LEON )

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

3 I, H. RUTHE POTAMI, CSR, RPR, Official  
4 Commission Reporter,

5 Do hereby certify that I stenographically  
6 transcribed the said proceedings from tape recordings  
7 delivered to me by Commission Staff.

8 DATED this 6th day of April, 1999.

9 

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