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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO.: 990517-TL

Filed: April 20, 2000

In Re: Request for review of proposed numbering
plan relief for the 904 area code

April 20, 2000

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

ROBERT M. WEISS

- Q. Please state your name, organization, address, and title.
- A. My name is Robert M. Weiss. I am the Communications Director for Volusia County government. My business address is 123 West Indiana Avenue, Room #205, DeLand, Florida 32720. The telephone number is (904) 736-5750.
- Q. Please describe your educations background and professional experience.
- A. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, and a Master of Business

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Administration degree in Management Information Systems from American University in Washington, D.C.

I had over 26 years experience managing military communications prior to retiring as a Colonel, U.S. Army, in 1989. Included in that experience is a one (1) year tour of executive training with industry with NYNEX and AT&T in engineering and management. Upon retirement, I came to my current position which I have now held for ten (10) years.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to address the position of Volusia County government, representing the citizenry of the County, concerning PSC docket 990517-TL, Request for Review of Proposed Number Plan Relief for the 904 Area code.

My testimony will be structured to respond to the issues identified for this docket, but I must initially provide some background information concerning calling patterns, calling rates, and area code divisions within Volusia County.

1 Volusia County has been arbitrarily and inconveniently split for
2 telephone calling purposes since the AT&T modified final judgment
3 (MFJ) which established rules and calling areas subsequent to the
4 breakup of the Bell system in the 1984 time frame. The local access
5 and transport area (LATA) boundary dividing the Daytona Beach
6 calling area of LATA from the Orlando LATA goes right through
7 Southwest Volusia County without any respect for, or consideration
8 of, political boundaries. Since the time of this division, Volusia
9 County's southwest sector has increased in population dramatically.
10 Particularly of note is the incorporation of the second largest city in
11 the County, as well as one of the fastest growing areas of the state,
12 in Deltona. The present situation, therefore, has over one-third of the
13 citizens of the County separated from the other two-thirds by a LATA
14 boundary. (See exhibit to be supplied)

15
16 There are additional complicating, negative factors concerning
17 telephone service in the area. At present, the telephone subscribers
18 in the Southwest Volusia County/Deltona area are served by two (2)
19 local exchange companies (LECs), BellSouth Telecommunications,
20 Inc. and Sprint-Florida, Inc. The region is also unique in that an area
21 code or numbering plan area (NPA) boundary divides the area but in
22 a different way and place from the LATA boundary. The subscribers
23 in the Sprint exchange of Orange City are in 904 NPA. The BellSouth

1 exchanges are in the 407 area. The City of Deltona is served by two
2 (2) LECs, three (3) exchanges and two (2) area codes, soon to be
3 overlaid with a third. In most, but not all instances nationally, the NPA
4 and LATA boundaries follow the same line. This is not the case in
5 Southwest Volusia County/Deltona area.

6
7 In summary, in this county we have neighbors within the same county
8 and often the same city having to make long distance calls literally
9 across the street and having to dial 11 digits to communicate with one
10 another. The Florida Public Service Commission has been
11 understanding in the past and supportive of efforts to correct these
12 serious drawbacks to County telephone service. The PSC has been
13 thwarted in its ability to correct this situation to a large extent by the
14 lack of options concerning interLATA calling.

15
16 This area code issue represents a real opportunity to provide some
17 position impetus toward solving the poor situation existing in this
18 portion of Florida.

19
20 Q. Should the Commission approve the industry's consensus relief plan?

21
22 A. No. Area code overlays only compound an already confusing
23 situation. Geographic and political identification of telephone

1 subscribers makes significantly more sense to users, even if it
2 involves some subscribers experience number changing.

3
4 This County feels strongly that it must be given a single area code
5 (NPA) throughout to provide some relief. We understand that the
6 county alone may not have enough subscribers to warrant our own
7 exclusive NPA but may have to share with neighboring counties. That
8 situation is acceptable, although our own exclusive NPA would be
9 preferred. We also understand that the current 904 and 407 NPAs
10 would probably be given to other areas if geographic distribution of
11 NPA is approved for this portion of Florida.

12
13 Q. What number conservation measure(s), if any, should be
14 implemented?

15
16 A. Smallest block distribution that produces longest life for NPA prior to
17 exhaustion.

18
19 Q. What should be the dialing pattern for the following type of calls?:
20 A) Local
21 B) Toll
22 C) EAS (costs included in local rate)
23 D) ECS (\$.25 per call residential)

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- A. A) 7-digit
 B) 11-digit
 C) 7-digit
 D) 7-digit

Q. What is(are) the appropriate implementation schedule(s)?

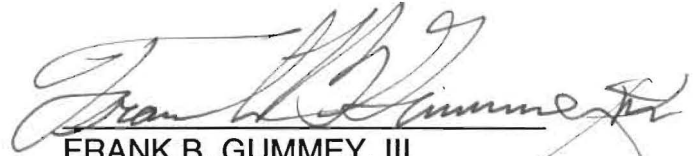
A. As soon as possible commensurate with sufficient time to handle the
 consumer-related problems resulting from changing of numbers, with
 adequate led time and intercept.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail to **all parties on the attached service list**, this 20th day of April, 2000.



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