

## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Resolution by City	)	Docket No. 950699-TL
Commission of Haines City	)	Filed: February 21, 1997
Requesting Extended Area	)	
Service (EAS) from Haines	)	
City Exchange to all	j	
Exchanges within Polk	j	
County.	í	
	)	

## DIRECT TESTIMONY OF RICHARD THOMAS WHEELER

AFA	
APT	
C°F .	
CHU.	
CTR .	
E 173	
t.E.	
Lii'	
/ -	
ī	
- A-	
N:S	

DOCUMENTS MICH SE

D2023 FEB 21 C

	1		Direct Testimony of
	2		Richard Thomas Wheeler
	3		On Behalf of The City of Haines City
	4		Before the Florida Public Service Commission
	5		February 21, 1997
	6		
	7	Q.	Please state your name, business name, address and title.
	8	A.	My name is Richard Thomas Wheeler. I am Chief of Police for the City or
	9		Haines City. My business address is 502 Hinson Avenue, Haines City,
I	0		Florida.
1	ı		
1	2	Q.	Please describe your educational background and your business
1	13		experience.
1	4	A.	My educational background consists of a Masters and Bachelors Degrees in
1	5		Criminal Justice, an Associates of Art Degree in Police Science. I am a
1	6		graduate of the FBI National Academy. My background in business involves
1	7		over thirty years as a law enforcement officer in Polk County and seven years
1	8		as a Chief Investigator for both the Public Defender's Office and the State
1	9		Attorney's Office with responsibilities for the oversight of criminal
2	0:0		investigations in the Tenth Judicial Circuit consisting of Polk, Highlands and
2	1		Hardee Counties. I have served as Chief of Police for two of the larger cities
2	2		in Polk County for approximately ten years.
2	3		
2	4	Q.	Please describe your role as a community leader in Haines City.
2	5	A.	My involvement in the community consists of President of the Polk County

College Alumni Association; Vice President of the Heart of Florida Optimist
Club; served for three years as a youth motivator for Eastside Elementary
School; and a member of the Quality Improvement Councils for Eastside
Elementary School, Boone Middle School, and Haines City High School. I
am a Past President of the Polk County Police Chief's Association and am
currently serving on its Board of Directors. I am also a board member of the
Tampa Bay Chiefs Association. I spend a great deal of my time speaking to
service and civic clubs, churches, youth groups, etc. I presently serve on a
number of committees relating specifically to the Criminal Justice System and
Juvenile Justice System.

- Q. Why is it appropriate that the Florida Public Service Commission be concerned with the provision of countywide extended area service for Haines City?
- A. I believe the Florida Public Service Commission should be concerned with the need to extend service for Haines City for several reasons, among which is the mere fact that Polk County is over 2,000 square miles and Haines City is located in the uppermost northeast corner of the county.

- 20 Q. In what ways will the implementation of countywide extended area service impact your business and community interest?
- 22 A. Law enforcement services are impacted greatly because criminals have no 23 boundaries. This necessitates constant communications between law 24 enforcement agencies within the county. It is the fastest form of relaying 25 intelligence information from agency to agency and many times will require

1 lengthy conversations between investigators. Due to the present restriction 2 on telephone service and the requirements for an officer to justify his or her 3 long distance calls, not having extended area service often hampers the 4 sharing of necessary information. 5 6 Q. In what ways do you foresee the implementation of countywide 7 extended area service impacting the economy of Haines City? 8 Projections for growth in this northeast corner for the next ten years indicate A. we are in the fastest growing area in the county and perhaps the state. With 10 growth comes the need to improve and enhance not only the area's 11 infrastructure but desirability for new business to locate here in the Haines 12 13 City area because we have enticements that will promote and draw business 14 to them. 15 Q. Describe what you see as Haines City's growth potential with the 16 extended area service for local telephone usage. 17 18 Extended telephone service is a tremendous drawing card. Businesses know 19 up front that if over fifty percent of thair telephone business in the county will 20 require long distance charges, they will have second thoughts about 21 relocating their business, thus, having a tremendous economic impact. 22 Q. 23 Please describe any additional factors which you believe the Florida 24 Public Service Commission should consider with regard to Haines

25

City's application.

1		
2	A.	I believe that if the Florida Public Service Commission will grant the extended
3		service area to include all of Polk County, it would cause a greater sharing of
4		information between agencies in dealing with criminals. The simple equation
5		of becoming more effective and efficient will decrease crimes committed.
6		This will cause a decrease in the costs associated with law enforcement
7		efforts which will decrease the crime rate which, in turn, will be an
8		encouragement for people to locate in the Haines City area.
ò		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
2ა		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		