

Buzz Westfall
County Executive

Saint Louis
COUNTY
PLANNING

Glenn A. Powers
Director of Planning

July 15, 2003

St. Louis County Boundary Commission
1516 South Brentwood Boulevard – Suite 101
St. Louis, Missouri 63144

Re: Additional St. Louis County comments regarding proposed Maryland Heights
annexation (BC 0302 – Page Avenue Area)

Dear Members:

On behalf of County Government the St. Louis County Department of Planning would like to take this opportunity to convey some additional comments and concerns regarding the above referenced proposed annexation by the City of Maryland Heights. This letter supplements the July 11, 2003 dated report to the Boundary Commission regarding BC 0302.

As was stated at the Commission's June 24, 2003 Public Hearing, and reiterated in our July 11th report, St Louis County Government believes the proposed annexation would represent a logical extension of the City's boundaries from a geographic perspective. The new border proposed makes sense since the entire right-of-way of Page Avenue in this area would be in the City.

We initially expressed our neutrality on this non-citizen driven annexation attempt by the City, noting that the matter should be determined by a vote of the citizens of the area. County Government continues to support the right of residents to vote on issues of this type, especially on matters that have been generated by the citizens themselves. However, additional consideration of the financial implications of this request on the overall County Government financial picture compels us to oppose the City's request at this time.

We recognize the right of the City to pursue this annexation, but question the need to add an area to its corporate limits that will reap some \$400,000 or more annually to a jurisdiction that does not face any budgetary shortfall and appears to have a healthy reserve fund, based on the information provided in the City's Plan of Intent.

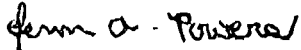
By contrast, the loss of over \$320,000 or more annually by County Government, coupled with cumulative revenue losses experienced from previous annexations, and shrinking revenues available to the County because of current economic conditions leads to an obvious conclusion that this annexation proposal is not in the best interest of County Government at this time. Its approval will negatively impact the provision of services to the citizens of St. Louis County.

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With these thoughts in mind, we respectfully request that the Boundary Commission reject the application by the City of Maryland Heights to annex the Page Avenue area.

If there is any further information that we can provide, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Glenn A. Powers
Director of Planning

GAP/LJG

cc: Mark Levin
City Administrator of
Maryland Heights