

**BOUNDARY COMMISSION
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI**

**TRANSCRIPT OF
BC0407 PLAN OF INTENT PUBLIC HEARING
FLORISSANT “Area 2A” SIMPLIFIED BOUNDARY CHANGE: ANNEXATION**

AUGUST 10, 2004

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners	Present (P)/Absent (A)
Matt Armstrong	P (arrived 7:05 p.m.)
Ted Armstrong	A
Christine Bredenkoetter	P
Bob Ford	P
Marvin Gelber	P
Thomas Hayek	P
Greg Kloeppe	A
Betty Marver	P
Mary Schuman	P
Johnnie Spears	P
Don Wojtkowski	P (arrived 7:25 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT: David Hamilton, Legal Counsel

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Ladies and Gentlemen: We're going to continue the public hearing which we started earlier this evening. As you all are aware, hopefully, we're here tonight for a public hearing on a proposal by the City of Florissant. Again, for anyone who has come in since my initial remarks, my name is Tom Hayek. I'm the Chairman of the St. Louis County Boundary Commission, and in front of you here are various members of that Commission. The reason that we're here tonight is that the City of Florissant has submitted a proposal to the St. Louis County Boundary Commission proposing to annex a certain area of what is currently unincorporated St. Louis County. That area is generally known as the Sunset Park Condominiums and is ... a map of it is displayed up here on the overhead.

The reason we are here is that pursuant to Missouri Law and ordinances passed or ordinance passed by the St. Louis County, the St. Louis County Boundary Commission is tasked with

the responsibility of reviewing proposals by municipalities that are wanting to annex certain areas of unincorporated St. Louis County. There are other types of proposals, but that's why we're here tonight. This is a public hearing. It is a chance to air out in public the various facets and issues surrounded with this proposal for annexation. The City of Florissant will make a presentation tonight lasting no more than 15 minutes of why they believe the annexation is a good idea. St. Louis County will then have 15 minutes for a presentation of what their thoughts and feelings are concerning this proposal, and we will then take public comment in which you, if you would like to, may address the Commission, and give us your thoughts on this proposal. If you want to do so, you need to submit to us a public speaker's card. It's a piece of paper sitting on the table back there. You need to fill out your name, your address, whether you're speaking as an individual or on behalf of a group and give it to our attorney at the end of the table, Mr. David Hamilton. When it comes to the public speaker portion, we'll call you up in the same sequence as we receive those. You'll be given one ... no, three minutes to speak unless you're speaking on behalf of a group in which you get five. If you don't give us a speaker form before we start the public sec ... public speaker session, you'll not be allowed to talk. I'll give you another warning at the time the County gives its presentation and then that'll be it.

I told you a little bit about why we are involved. Our responsibility is to review the proposal and pursuant to certain guidelines provided to us by the Missouri Legislature decide whether or not the proposal should be approved. I'll talk in a little bit about how that can be approved considering what was proposed by the City. Generally, our guidelines are that we are to evaluate whether or not this proposal is in the best interest of the City of Florissant, in the best interest of St. Louis County, and in the best interest of the area of St. Louis County surrounding that area. And the best interests of the ... obviously, of the residents within that area that's included. What the City has proposed... the proposal they've submitted is known as a Simplified Boundary Change. What they have done is obtained a petition or signature on petitions of 75 percent of the registered voters in the area that they are proposing to annex ... petitions, signatures in favor of the annexation, and we have those from the Board of Elections. They've been provided to us. Because it is a Simplified Boundary Change, we have two options. Well, we have three options. We

can either deny it ... we can first deny the proposal stating it's not in the best interests and therefore nothing will happen. If we approve it, there are two options for our approval. One is to simply approve it as a Simplified Boundary Change because of the petition drive, and that means the annexation will occur without any further decision by anyone else. Alternatively, we may approve it as an Approved Boundary Change. The difference in the wording would mean that if that would occur, a vote would then have to happen. A majority of the residents in both the City of Florissant and in the area proposed to be annexed would both have to approve the proposal for the annexation to occur. If one or the other did not pass it by a simple majority, the annexation would not happen.

Public comment is a very key portion of the Legislature's directive to us and a very key portion of our Public Hearing tonight. I've already told you about the fact that if you want to speak to us tonight about filling out the speaker card if you want. If you do not wish to speak to us but still wish to submit comment, you may do so in writing for 21 days from today. In other words, you have up until August 31, 2004, to submit to us in writing any public comment you may have. Our address is on the Public Speaker Forms, and I know there are still some more in the back of the room. If there aren't any, if you just come up to us at the end, we'll get you our address. Our offices are in Clayton.

The Commissioners will ... before, I believe it's sometime in March '05 have to address... No, I'm sorry within the next couple of months have to address this proposal at our next or our public meeting. The Commissioners will have to decide whether or not to approve it or disapprove it and how, if we do approve it, in what way we will do so. The people you see in front up here are the majority of the Commission, and I guess to let you know a little bit about us, we are appointed by various groups throughout the County. Some of us are appointments from the County Executive's Office, some of us are appointed by cities with a population over twenty thousand, some appointed by cities with a population of over ten thousand, and some by cities with less than a ten thousand population, and then some by a joint committee. So we come from all areas of the county. We come from incorporated or municipalities and unincorporated areas. We come from the north, the south, west, and I guess what I'd like to do at this time is take the opportunity to have the Commissioners identify or introduce themselves and identify from what part of the County they come. So starting on

my right this time, Mr. Armstrong, if you'd be so kind.

MARMSTRONG: My name is Matthew Armstrong, and I live in Webster Groves. And I'm a compromise candidate agreed upon by the County Executive's Office and the Municipal League.

WOJTKOWSKI: My name is Don Wojtkowski. I live in unincorporated North St. Louis County out off of old Jamestown Road.

FORD: My name is Bob Ford. I live in South St. Louis County and was appointed by the County Commissioner's ... County Executive's Office.

SCHUMAN: My name is Mary Schuman. I live in University City, and I was appointed by a joint committee of municipalities in the Supervisor's Office.

MARVER: Hi, I'm Betty Marver, live in University City, and I was appointed by the County Executive Office.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Again, my name is Tom Hayek, City of Ferguson. And I was appointed by mayors of municipalities greater than twenty thousand population.

SPEARS: My name is Johnny Spears, St. Louis County unincorporated, North County in the Blackjack area.

GELBER: My name is Marvin Gelber. I'm from Creve Coeur, appointed by the mayor of Creve Coeur.

BREDENKOETTER [sounds like]: I'm Christine Bredenکوetter, and I am a part of the large cities, and I happen to be a resident of the City of Florissant.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: I think that's enough talking by me for now. Again, what will happen is the City of Florissant will give its presentation, St. Louis County will give their presentation, and then we will have the public comment. With that being said, Mr. Hessel, if you'd be so kind.

Oh, I'm sorry. One last thing. I'm going to go over some ground rules because there may be a fair amount of public comment. This is our public hearing so we get to set the ground rules. And the ground rules are pretty much out of the book, you know, all the things I needed to know, I learned in kindergarten. We're courteous of speakers, we don't call out, laugh, or say anything while they're talking because they're not going to do so while you're talking so we're going to be a nice orderly manner. Everybody gets their chance to talk, and we will listen to each and every one of you. Thank you.

HESSEL: Thank you. Thank you, and good evening. I'm pretty sure that all the members of the Commission know me, but for those members in the audience, and I apologize for having my back to you, my name is John Hessel, and I serve as the City Attorney for the City of Florissant. There are members of the Florissant City Council who are also present here this evening as well as member of the Florissant administrative staff that are here this evening. As Mr. Hayek mentioned, we are here this evening to address the proposed annexation for an area that we have referred to in our Master Annexation Plan as Area 2. For the audience as well as members of the Commission, the area is being exhibited on the slide. And as I will discuss in more detail in a few moments and as I think Mr. Hayek mentioned as well this area consists primarily of the Sunset Park Condominiums. If you look carefully at the map, you'll also see that it includes a commercial property where Walgreens sits. It also contains property owned by the Florissant Valley Fire Protection District and one residential structure.

As you can see, the City of Florissant is in yellow on our slide, and it surrounds the area to the south and to the west. Sunset Park, Florissant's City Park in this area, is what I would characterize up to the northwest ... it's in the upper left-hand corner. Pleasant Hollow subdivision's located in St. Louis County as you can see on the map are to the north and to the west. The primary streets surrounding this area consist of Shackelford, Sunset Park Drive, and Central Parkway. As Mr. Hayek mentioned, the City of Florissant is seeking to annex this area as a Simplified Annexation proposal, and as a matter of background, the City was contacted by residents within the Sunset Park Condominiums. We held an informal meeting at the JFK Center back in April, I believe it was April, the 29th, at which approximately 35 to 40 residents within the condominium association attended. And it's

my understanding St. Louis County held a similar meeting.

In April of 2004 the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners indicated according to their records there were 309 registered voters in this area. In less than ninety days 271 petitioned signatures were collected by the residents within Sunset Park Condominiums, and I want to acknowledge and give credit and recognition to those people who went out and gathered the signatures. Those are people within the condominium association, and I hope that they are here. I hope that they speak. They include, and there's quite a long list, Leslie Seabaw [sounds like], Sherry French, Marian Stevens, Roy Cockrell [sounds like], Michelle Elliot, Kim Orkin, Barry Kinkle, Warner Neilson, Nancy Diedrick, Rose Sturgess, Cathy Dennis, Loyd Seabaw, Barbara Gurley, Felicia O'Neal, Delbert and Berdealia [sounds like] Dillman, and Ralph Frivogel [sounds like]. Those are the ones who were identified to me as who went out and gathered the signatures, and I guess I wanted to make mention of that because as you can tell from that list there are a lot of people who are actively involved in gathering the signatures.

They gathered 77 percent of the registered voters, as I indicated to you, and I suggest to you that that percentage of residents who live in the condominium association who actually signed the petition is actually higher than the 77 percent of the registered voters because some of the voters who are listed on the register according to the Board of Election Commissioners are maybe registered to vote there but there is reason to believe that they no longer live there. But that's one of the issues that we have to face and that we deal with, and again, I'm emphasizing and I suggest to you that it's fair to say that the 77 percentile represents a larger portion or larger percentage of the residents in the condominium association. And I know that there has been, I guess, some reservation or at least discussion about placing ... about approving a proposition as a Simplified Annexation Proposal because it does not, as you mentioned, Mr. Hayek, call for a vote. I suggest to you that under these circumstances when you gather such a large majority, such a short period of time, that it would be appropriate to approve it as a Simplified Annexation Proposal. I think that it's in keeping with the legislative intent, and there aren't any exceptions as least as we can tell that would cause it to fall out and to call for a vote.

With respect to my remaining comments, I want to emphasize my comments are not in any way intended to be a criticism of St. Louis County. I respect and admire the people who work and perform services within St. Louis County. My good friend, Jim Baker, is here this evening. As I understand Jim is going to speak on behalf of St. Louis County. I have great admiration for Jim and everyone over at St. Louis County I think as everyone within the City of Florissant does. All we're doing is presenting the City of Florissant as an option to the residents, and we believe that the proposal for annexation is appropriate. We believe that the proposal for annexation which was so overwhelmingly received by the residents within the area was ... one of the reasons was because it's so naturally associated with the City of Florissant.

From a zoning standpoint, the area that you see is basically going to remain unchanged. It is presently zoned, as you can see from the map, Residential, Multi-family, and then C-8. Now it will continue to be zoned in that manner with the only exception being that the Walgreens' property will be rezoned from C-8 to 8-5. For those of you that aren't familiar with the City of Florissant zoning, the Florissant's 8-5 is almost identical to the St. Louis County C-8. In fact, it was patterned after St. Louis County's C-8 zoning category. So for all practical purposes, you can see that this is very much in keeping and the zoning classification will remain the same. As we point out in the next slide, if you could, Jen, the area consists of, as I said at the outset, of five parcels. We've tried to identify on the map the parcels for you. You can see in addition to that that the principal intersection there is at Shackelford and Sunset Park or Humes [sounds like]. On one side of Shackelford it's Humes, on the other side it's Sunset Park. That's the principal intersection for this area. I can tell you that the City of Florissant is frequently called when there is an accident at this intersection. As we said at the outset, the area is primarily consists of the Sunset Park Condominiums, and you can see that in the blue, the property immediately, what I would characterize would be to the west I think it would be ... excuse me, to the east, is the Florissant Valley Fire Protection House No. 3, then you have the future House No. 3 as well, the future site for the Florissant Valley Fire Protection District, then you have a single residence, which also is a little bit further to what I would characterize to the north of that property, and then you have the Walgreens' parcel so we sit at the corner of Shackelford and Sunset Drive and

then there's a vacant lot. Sunset Park Drive and the Ameren UE right-of-way are also included within the proposed annexation area. And again, Captain Foster's identifying the Sunset Park Condominium Association, then the other properties which consist of, as we said, the Fire Houses, the Fire House property, then if you would, John, the residential property, then the Walgreens' property. As we also said, we are also including Sunset Park Drive. I will note to you that Sunset Park Drive is maintained by the City of Florissant. It is the only access into Florissant's park, the Sunset Park. It also provides access to the Sunset Condominium complex, and I suggest to you that it has always been sort of an anomaly that Sunset Park Drive, the drive that leads into Sunset Park, Florissant's park is within St. Louis County but maintained by the City of Florissant. We believe that it ought to be logically within the City of Florissant. As you look ... if you look carefully at the map, you'll see there are really three entrances into the Sunset Condominiums. One is from Sunset Park Drive, goes in and out, you can get in and out of the condominiums from Sunset Park Drive. You can also access the condominiums from Shackelford. You can get into the condominiums from the north and then head out to the south from Shackelford, and lastly, you can enter the condominiums from Central Parkway. I suggest to you that really these two access points, although these roads are technically within St. Louis County, meaning Sunset Park Drive as well as Shackelford at that point in time they are really ingresses and egresses from the City of Florissant.

From a technical standpoint so that you know according to the latest census, there are 714 people who would be annexed into the City of Florissant under this proposal. As we have discussed in the past, the tax effect on these residents truly is negligible. The tax rate will actually decrease as we've talked before by 2 percent because of the difference in the utility tax rate between the City of Florissant and St. Louis County, and again, for purpose of full disclosure and so that everybody understands, we've also discussed in the past that the City of Florissant does have a higher sales tax rate because of the capital improvement sales tax as well as the park improvement sales tax rate. However, as we've mentioned before, unless the residents are really going to change their shopping habits, that has no impact on them whatsoever with the sole exception being that when you purchase an automobile, it will increase because the sales taxes are imposed based on residency, not where you buy your

automobile. And as we have done with other annexations, we have estimated the revenues which would be received from this area based strictly upon the population in reference to the other amounts of income that the City would receive, and we've estimated that to be approximately \$188,300. And again, this increase in revenue is the result of the incremental increase from the pooled funds within St. Louis County. The increased revenue will basically be offset by the cost of providing additional services. Again, as we have discussed in the past, we estimate the cost of those services based upon population is truly a pro rata estimate and we've estimated those to be approximately \$166,500.

As I have indicated to you in the past, we believe that this proposal is a logical extension of the boundaries of the City of Florissant. The residents of this area have clearly indicated a desire to be annexed into the City of Florissant, particularly through the petitioning process. The area is surrounded by Florissant on two sides, the south and to the east, with Sunset Park again being to the far northwest. We suggest to you that the area would be very easily assimilated into the City of Florissant, and we would welcome the opportunity to have those residents come into the City of Florissant. We would very much appreciate your approval of this annexation as a Simplified Boundary proposal, which I believe, as I said at the outset, we believe to be consistent with the statute and appropriate under all the circumstances. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Thank you, Mr. Hessel. We'll start our questioning down on the end with Matt Armstrong. Matt?

ARMSTRONG: Mr. Hessel, I'm tempted to ask if this is a Simplified Boundary proposal, but I think I got it. And therefore, I don't have any questions.

HESSEL: I hope I made it clear.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Donald?

WOJTKOWSKI: I have no questions.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Robert?

FORD: Yeah, I have a question. In your proposal, it shows that Florissant since 2002 has dropped revenue of about \$5 million dollars. Why is that?

HESSEL: Because of the new census. When the census came out, the population had been reduced from what it was prior to that so as a result of that, there was a decrease in the revenues.

FORD: Every year it decreases additionally?

HESSEL: No, sir ... again, I wish Randy McDaniel was here, the Director of Finance, but my understanding is that the revenues went down and will continue ... you receive your revenues based upon population, as you know, both from the pool cities as well as other fundings from the state and otherwise, and when the census resulted in a decrease in the population then there was a decrease in the revenue received from the pooled funds. I don't want to characterize it as a one-time event because it's ongoing. Once that occurred they are reduced and they continue to be reduced.

FORD: Okay. No other questions.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Mary.

SCHUMAN: None.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: [inaudible]

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: I apologize if I missed it in your presentation, but I have to ask about the drawing of the boundary on the, I guess, sort of southwest corner or southeast corner I guess. The one where it kind of goes on the other side of Shackelford, around the Fire House, not around this residence, around that residence. I don't understand the logic of the drawing, I guess.

HESSEL: Well, you probably don't understand the logic of the drawing only because portions of that, you can see, Tom, the one's in yellow presently comprise the City of Florissant so as you go down Shackelford, the Fire House is not within the City of Florissant ... the property next to it ...

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay.

HESSEL: is within the City of Florissant...

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay

HESSEL: ... the residential structure next to it is not, and then you go down and you're into St. Louis County so that's one of the reasons why we're here is we have this jutting out and I would agree with you, it doesn't quite fit. It's not a straight line. That's correct.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: How did that happen?

HESSEL: Um.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Never mind.

HESSEL: Not quite sure.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: We might as well talk about it a little bit, I guess. Hopefully, you would have received a copy of our monthly packet at some point which contained letters that we have received concerning this proposal, at least the City should have. Are you aware of any complaints by residents of the Sunset Park Condos in the manner in which the petitions were obtained?

HESSEL: I am not aware of any at all, and I did inquire of whether or not there were, and I am not aware of any.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay. Okay

HESSEL: And to the extent they exist, I apologize for my ignorance, but I'm not aware of any.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay. I guess the last question about that then from me anyway how was it ... did the City approach this area or somebody from this area approach the City about annexing the condominium complex?

HESSEL: It's my understanding that the City received phone calls and then scheduled a town hall meeting ...

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay.

HESSEL: ... at the JFK Center and my understanding that was April, the 29th.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Of '04?

HESSEL: Of '04. That's correct. And that's really where it sort of initiated and took off.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Do you know whether or not ... you mentioned the names of several people who were part of the petition drive process and we've discussed a little ... do you know whether or not employees of the City were utilized as part of the petition drive process and whether they were in their official capacity out there doing so?

HESSEL: Right. My understanding is that an employee did participate, not in any official capacity at all, and as he has done in similar instances where he would assist the residents in gathering signatures and would go out in the evening, he would identify himself as being associated with the City of Florissant, so that was up front, and would solicit petitions, signatures on the petition.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay. All right. That's all I had. . Johnny?

SPEARS: No questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: . [inaudible] Christine?

BREDENKOETTER: I have two. First of all, would you repeat the numbers again about the number of registered voters and the number of the people who signed the petition.

HESSEL: The number of registered voters were 309 according to the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners and ...

BREDENKOETTER: And ...

HESSEL: ... and 271 ...

BREDENKOETTER: Okay

HESSEL: ...signatures were gathered on the petitions.

BREDENKOETTER: And when did the petition drive start and when did it end when you reached the 271?

HESSEL: Well, it was all done within 90 days. So, it started as I understand it, either in late April or early May and would have been done by the middle part of July ... in May, June.

BREDENKOETTER: One more. The employee of Florissant, is he a resident of the City of Florissant?

HESSEL: Is Jeff a resident? Yes.

BREDENKOETTER: So obviously he could have been doing this as his civic duty as someone who was a Florissant booster, not necessarily in an official capacity.

HESSEL: Could of.

BREDENKOETTER: That's all.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Anyone else? Last chance. All right. Mr. Hessel, thank you for your time.

HESSEL: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: We'll now hear a presentation by St. Louis County. Mr. Baker?

Baker: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. While we're getting set up here, let me make a couple of introductions. First, myself, and again, as John Hessel indicated, I

apologize for not facing you all. My name is Jim Baker. I'm the Chief of Staff for the County Executive of St. Louis County, and I would also emphasize that like John ... what John didn't tell you is we've known each other a long time. We've known each other when we used to play softball together and that was during a period of time we worried about winning instead whether we were going to get hurt. We've long since passed that point that now so we don't play anymore.

Like Florissant, we're not here to enter into a beauty contest or ... I'm not here to criticize or say anything about Florissant. I have a great deal of friends there that live there and work there and know people. But I do want to go over a few things relating to St. Louis County. By the way, we have a number of County officials with us tonight.

Lindsey Swanig [sounds like], our Parks and Recreation Director, and John Nesbit, the Assistant Chief of the Park Rangers, is here. Major Tim Fitch who's the commanding officer of the entire patrol division for the County Police Department, and Captain Elze, who is the First County Precinct Commanding Officer. We have Pat Palmer, our manager of operations from our highway department, and Enola _____, from highway planning engineer, Lori Fiegel is our comprehensive planning manager for the County and she's our primary liaison to the Boundary Commission. I'm sure you all know her well. And Len Groszek is a planner from the department. We also have Joe Hunt and Joe O'Connell. Joe's the manager of our neighborhood preservation unit, which has been active all over the County, but also in this area of North County.

Let me walk through just briefly, and again, I'm not going to go through this particular annexation area. We've already covered that well. And let me talk to you a little bit about where the County comes from in these types of situations. The County is a service provider not just in the unincorporated area where we provide the municipal services, but we also provide County-wide services to everybody in the community so we're very familiar with all the areas, both the incorporated and unincorporated areas. That also means that we're providing services to about a million people and in many cases, we have some significant economies of scale in doing so. Even in the area of local services, we're providing services the same as many municipalities do to

approximately three hundred plus thousand people so we are in one sense the largest municipal service provider in the county as well as being a county-wide service provider, and in many of those cases beyond just the unincorporated areas we provide service ... municipal services to many cities by contract including police services, inspection services. Even in some cases we provide economic development and planning consultation to many of the municipalities.

So municipal services is a major portion of our business. And that slide that you see there just shows you some of the variety of them. In the unincorporated areas, police patrol is one of our key things. In this case I might mention to you streets are not that significant an issue in this particular annexation because the Sunset Park Condos has private streets and as indicated by the City of Florissant, they're already maintaining the one major street that goes ... that's part of this proposal. Although we do street services, both in terms of local streets and arterial roads throughout St. Louis County.

Code enforcement is a significant part of our service. Again, I mention that we do that by contract actually probably even more so than we do in the unincorporated areas. About 90 percent of the municipalities contract with us for various code enforcement services. We have neighborhood parks and programs and in addition to our regional parks, planning and zoning and a number of others. Some of these actually we provide both as county-wide and as local services. Things like the Health Department and some of the mosquito and vector control, we provide in the unincorporated areas, we also provide in many areas of the county as a county-wide service.

Although people think of us and our headquarters in Clayton, and that's certainly true, that's our main headquarters, we have three regional centers and here in north county we're at Village Square at 170 ... I mean 270 and Lindbergh Boulevard, and a lot of people don't realize that we have 80 people staffing that regional office alone.

The police services that we provide in this particular area of north county are provided out of our north country precinct and that includes 110 commissioned police officers that's ... We're talking about police officers alone. Their main headquarters, the precinct headquarters is on Benom [sounds like] as it indicates here, but we also have five

neighborhood substations where they apply. And, by the way, and the next slide will indicate this, they're backed up. It's not just the 110 officers there, but the entire County Police Department, which has 150 detectives and crime scene investigators and 35 officers just assigned to tactical operations and an overall staff of about a hundred thousand personnel. And the reason that we bring that out is not ... is again not to emphasize or say "We're better" than the next person. That's not true. We're better than a lot of people. We're very proud our police department, but Florissant has every reason to be proud of their police department too. But we do have some economies of scale that we bring to the table because of being the largest police force in the metropolitan area.

County Road Services ... I won't go into any details here again because this particular annexation doesn't provide, you know, doesn't provide a lot of shifting and funding of those types of services, but we do provide things like access control and planning and evaluation of road projects that occur, both in relationship to development and also in relationship to maintaining the existing roads.

Code Enforcement I mentioned before and this is an area where we're very heavily involved in a number of different areas not just in the things ... people think of code enforcement in terms of building, electrical, mechanic and those types of things, but we also do zoning enforcements. We also have ... the neighborhood preservation people are here today. We have dedicated inspectors that are designed to maintain and keep up property in areas of the unincorporated ... in unincorporated county.

This gives you some idea of the scope of that operation. Ninety percent of all the municipalities in St. Louis County contract for some of our code enforcement services. Some of them do all, some of them do only one component, but 90 percent do some work through us. We processed 48,000 permits last year and had 176,000 inspections made in 2003 so we have a very comprehensive, very dedicated staff to do that.

The Parks Department, again, this is just indicating some of the capacity in the County. We have 69 parks and sites, 12 in north county totaling over 11,050 acres. Sioux Passage Park is one of our premier parks in north county, and it by itself is 188 acres.

Planning and zoning types of services are sometimes, you know, underestimated in terms of what we do, in terms of land use planning, community plans. We provide technical assistance to a lot of places. That's an issue that we're very proud of in the north county area, generally both in the municipalities where we work cooperatively with municipalities in the unincorporated area. As many of the people up here know, we are challenged in many of the north county areas and the older areas that need real reinvestment in their community, and one of the things that our zoning and planning operation does in conjunction with our economic development plan ... our economic development people ... is really incentivize reinvestment into the community which is going to be critically important to us. You know, the areas that are the newest in the county and the new housing probably this doesn't resonate with them, it's not an issue for them, but for the majority of the county as we age and get older reinvesting in our communities and renewal in our communities is critically important and that's one of the number one priorities of our planning and zoning services right now. The slide indicates also that one of the things that we've been doing is trying to work with the neighborhoods themselves. The neighborhood college program is a fairly new program where we take neighborhood leaders and essentially educate them on what they can do and what resources are available for them to use in their various subdivisions and neighborhoods. We also have a county older residents program which is, as many of us are aware, is one of the fastest growing segments of our population and we try to provide help with getting them to important medical visits and helping them deal with home care and repair and legal assistance in some instances.

Citizen accessibility is important to us. I mentioned the North County Center. We try to actively engage the community. We recognize that county government and the courthouse that people associate with it is Clayton. We want to make sure that we bring... that we bring county government close to people's homes so we have very active neighborhood watch program out of the First Precinct. We have code enforcement meetings with ... at the neighborhood representative level, especially when we talk about some of our neighborhood preservation people, in counseling people in how we can better enforce and work with people to keep their communities up to standards, and we've had some recent town hall and subdivision meetings in the areas involved in this particular annexation request. The

Sunset Park Condos, there was a meeting May 27th, and in Pleasant Hollow subdivision on June 9 of this year.

This slide ... and let me also give you a caveat ... our figures will show a different revenue loss than Florissant's revenue gain figures. And that is not a discrepancy. Okay? Without going into incredible detail that boggles my mind as well as I'm sure a lot of other people here, because of the complex formulas and the way sales tax is shared and so on and so forth, the revenues that the County would lose during an annexation do not match up specifically dollar for dollar with the revenues that gain. So, by saying that we're showing a revenue loss of \$121,000, we're not challenging or disagreeing with the Florissant figures where they show a larger revenue gain.

It's just the vagaries of the tax distribution formulas and things of that nature. I would tell you that in terms of financial impact, this is not a huge annexation from St. Louis County's perspective. Our concerns that I'm going to address in just minute if we go to the next slides, really the financial concerns of the County have to do with cumulative impact of a number of different annexation proposals, and we know as we sit here ... maybe not folks in the audience that are focused on this particular annexation proposal, but as the July deadline approached and a number of different proposals came in, we have an unusually large number of annexation proposals that are out there. From the County's perspective we have to be able to deal with each and every one of them and any incremental changes that we may need to do in our service responsibilities to match up with some of those changes that make, so I wouldn't be by any stretch of the imagination, I would not be here telling you that you should be worried about \$121,000 loss to the County in our, you know, three hundred plus million dollar budget. That's not my message. However, I do think that we need to be discussing as we go along what some of the cumulative impacts make and some of the cumulative impacts because no adjustment like this for either a city or for the county can be done with perfect precision. If I delete a coverage area for my police department or if I add a coverage area for my police department that doesn't give me exactly one route of police coverage. I have to change those routes to try to maximize my efficiency and so although it's fairly easy for us to adjust to a single different annexation or proposal, when we start talking about adjusting to seven, eight, ten of them, that can become much more problematic and produce some slight inefficiencies in each one. So, we do think that there's

an issue for us to be concerned about in annexations as a cumulative effect.

The County's position on this one ... this annexation though is very similar to what we've had ... have done in many in the past. We are absolutely willing, capable, and able to continue to provide services to the people in this community. We'd be more than happy to do that. We also believe that overall, there's an advantage to the County in having a significant body of services so that we can maintain some of our economies of scale and operate effectively and efficiently. However, at the same time, we believe that people should have the right to decide who their own local government agency is and in this particular instance, if the clear majority of the people support the annexation, we won't oppose it.

Now you asked a question, and I'll address it the best way that I can to Mr. Hessel about complaints. Yes, we've had some complaints. Lori Fiegel would probably be better able to address that because most of them come into the planning department and concerns about the petition gathering process. But we have no way of evaluating that. I'm not here to tell you that that means that there's not a majority. I don't know. Okay? It's difficult to evaluate complaints. By the way, it's been my experience as an official of county government that any time you have a petition drive, there's probably going to be some complaints and misunderstandings because a lot of those petitions, and again, I'm not saying that as a reflection on Florissant because I see those in any types of petition drives because people collect petitions by word of mouth and so frequently there are questions after the fact whether things were explained correctly or whether, you know, I felt free to ... to ... sign or felt uncomfortable or whatever. So, I'll tell you, it would be our preference because we think it's important that the will of this group of people would be honored. It would be our preference that it be taken to a vote, not just for our sake and for Florissant's sake, but if there are any concerns among these people whether this petition reflects the will of the people should settle that forever and there should be ... and it should be very clear that if a majority of the people want the annexation that that's what ought to be done. I'll be happy to answer any questions that you have.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: [inaudible], we'll start down with you this time.

BREDENKOETTER: I'd like to compliment you on your slides, but one of my first

questions is 77 percent of the registered voters want to be represented by the City of Florissant. I see these slides about all these municipal services. If the County services are serving these people, why did 77 percent of the people express the desire to come to Florissant?

Baker: Well, you know, I guess that's a ... in any type of instance it's very difficult to understand what causes people to choose one way or the other on these types of things. I could tell you, you know, I've lived in north country for a long part of my life and I lived in an area that was ... in a particular area that actually happens to be up for another annexation and was has been on annexation ballot probably seven times and it failed every time. Every time it was up there, I think the city that was annexing thought that it was the will of the people. Okay? It didn't turn out to be that way when it was at the ballot box. In this case I can't tell you. I can tell you this much in one sense, this is not an area where the County had received a lot of complaints about service delivery, and yet, there may be other places where we have gotten complaints about service delivery and there wouldn't be a petition drive that would garner much success, you know, in that same area. It's hard to tell but, like I say, our position is very simple. If this is the clear will of those people, we'd be happy to see that happen. I think petitions can be difficult for everybody to deal with because I've seen too many of them where I've seen petitions submitted and I've seen a subsequent vote and they don't always match up with that, but clearly in this case, I'm not trying to say that there's obviously a number of people that signed the petitions that want ... that want to be in Florissant and if that's the majority of the people there, I think that's what ought to happen.

BREDENKOETTER: Okay. Another question. Why does the County feel compelled to be a municipal provider? Correct me if I'm wrong but is not St. Louis County the only county in the state of Missouri that has a municipal police department.

BAKER: Well, there's ... we may be the only county that has a municipal police department that's called a police department. In most counties there's a sheriff's office.

BREDENKOETTER: But they're two different things.

BAKER: ... that covers all that area.

BREDENKOETTER: We also have a sheriff's department in St. Louis County, do we not?

BAKER: Not ... no, not in the same sense. The County Sheriff's office only serves papers for the Court. They have no law enforcement responsibilities and so that's a creature of the county charter. We chose as a county charter to have a county police department instead of a sheriff's office. And in general, and actually trends across the country at the time that that charter was enacted were moving toward a police department rather than a sheriff's department because the sheriff's department in some context had the context of somehow being lesser than a police department, and when the county charter was put together, it was enumerated to have that charter. Why have it? Well, remember that although things have changed over the course of time, we still have the majority, the biggest single area to provide municipal services. If we didn't have a county police department, number one, we'd have to ... somebody would have to service those areas by contract or whatever and by having a large county police department it gives us some tremendous economies of scale. If you look at some of the contracts we're doing now, in most every instance where a municipality has approached us to contract with them, it's because they felt we could provide the services at a better cost point than they could. Now when you talk about a city like Florissant, that's a little different because they have a significant size where they can support a police department and they can support having the entire command staff or not ... if you're talking about a municipality that may have two or three thousand people, it can be a very difficult challenge to put together a police department, have a chief, maybe some other supervisory people. We can do that on a much more cost-effective basis because of the size of our department. And so that's one of the reasons from our standpoint we believe maintaining a quality police force for the unincorporated ...

[end side A]

[start side B]

... contract services because we've been expanding contract services that it is offset any losses we've had from annexation/incorporation. And which one ... what's the year on the Hazelwood one that ... ?

_____ It's about '93.

BAKER: Yeah, so not since '93 have we had that happen. We certainly did back in Chesterfield, and we did in that one Hazelwood annexation in '93 where we actually had a net reduction in staff based on ...

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: And just for the benefit of the rest of the Commission, I'll recognize we have received a letter from the County requesting an opportunity to meet with us and explain the finances and I'm going to set it up with the Commission members so they have asked for the opportunity to address the Commission and explain County finances and all that so we'll get into that a little more. I guess I'd like a little ... and if Miss Fiegel... somebody needs to address it, what complaints have come in? And really, I'm trying to get an idea of the number of persons because we have a number of letters, but ... anyway, you tell us what you know.

FIEGEL: Okay. I'm Lori Fiegel. I'm with the County Planning Department and our office did receive a number of phone calls, some emails, and some letters. I would not say the quantity was great ... maybe a dozen or so, but the kinds of things that the people were complaining about were very familiar sounding from prior petition drives so it was things like people felt pressured, they didn't know where this all came ... where the annexation proposal came from ... they were under the impression that there was a deadline and therefore there were repeat visits to their, you know, to their homes to collect signatures. People, while it's a wonderful thing for your neighbors to collect signatures, people indicated that they were embarrassed to say no and they signed it because it was a friend or neighbor. There were several phone calls concerning Florissant police officers having an active presence in the condo complex. I cannot personally say that I talked to anyone who said that they were collecting signatures, but I had several calls that "Why are Florissant police in my unincorporated neighborhood?" And I believe there was an incident where our county police were called over that. There were also several residents who said

that they were specifically told that they were signing the petition to place it on the ballot, that that's why signatures were needed, to simply place it on the ballot, had at least three people tell me that on different occasions. There were also several people who said they wished to remove their names from the petition after finding out more information, and I think you may have a letter or two or an email with respect to some folks wishing to do that.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: For these contacts that you had from citizens, were they informed that you should direct these also to the Country Boundary Commission and ...

FIEGEL: Yes, in fact,...

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: ... maybe given a phone number and an address so that if ...

FIEGEL: Yes, in fact, we routinely tell people that we prefer for the contact to be made directly to the Commission. We also did meet with the residents. We were asked to come and meet with the residents after Florissant began their petition drive because there was a great deal of confusion about what was happening and why is this happening now, and, you know, what's the County's position so we did hold a meeting. Probably had 50 or 60 people at the meeting and at that meeting we do distribute an information sheet about the annexation process, and we put all the contact information for the Boundary Commission, website, address, phone number, fax so that people do have that information.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: So for us in reviewing and listening to what you have said, it would be fair for us to understand that if a citizen expressed complaints to you about any of these things that you've told us ... that there were police, that they were told different information, that they were told that they should direct these to the Country Boundary Commission and they were given an address or phone number to call us.

FIEGEL: Yes, I would say that we consistently did that, and I'll just turn to one of my staff to also ...

GROSZEK: My name is Len Groszek and I'm an associate of ...

FIEGEL: He also took a number of the phone calls.

GROSZEK: ...Lori and basically, you know, we did tell people that and we also, you know, well, we suggested for people to do that. I talked to some folks that sometimes they express a hesitancy to do that because they don't want their name on the record because they're afraid of some reprisals or something that might happen later.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: But it was suggested that they get a hold of us?

GROSZEK: Definitely. Definitely.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay.

BAKER: And that's why I said earlier we can't really assess that. We had complaints, but they weren't a large number of complaints and so it's difficult for us to assess them.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay. That's all. Betty? Mary? Robert?

FORD: There was some discussion about the police department and everything. Has there been a problem with police protection in this condominium area or ... ?

BAKER: Not that ... I'm not aware of any higher numbers in this area than in that general area of north county.

FORD: Have there been any incidents in the general area that would dictate what kind of police coverage you have?

BAKER: Not that I'm aware of. [background conversation]

FORD: Any kind of incidents that show what kind of immediate coverage you have?

_____ : Two weeks ago we had an active shooter, Pleasant Hollow subdivision which is directly behind the condominiums. In that incident a man tried to steal a car, started shooting, the man ran down to where there was a garage sale and there was three people shot, two eventually died. And an active shooting situation can occur anywhere at any time. I think that what was important is that within five minutes we had nine cars in the

area, and we were able to catch the guy before he got out of the subdivision.

Unfortunately, one of the officers had to shoot him, and we were able to take him into custody. But ... I mean, that did happen.

FORD: All right. Thank you. No other questions

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Donald?

WOJTKOWSKI: Yeah, Jim, I guess what I'm gleaning from your presentation is that we can feel somewhat assured that there will be no degradation of services and the remaining area in Pleasant Hollow or whatever if this annexation should go through.

BAKER: No, if the annexation goes through it will not have a significant financial impact on the County or its ability to provide service in the rest of the unincorporated area or our county-wide services.

WOJTKOWSKI: Okay. And on the positive side, if 77 percent of the people signed the petition, that still means there's 23 percent of those people who may feel that your services are pretty good, and I for one do congratulate St. Louis County on providing a very high level of service to unincorporated county.

BAKER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Matthew?

ARMSTRONG: I think everything's been covered. I don't have any questions.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: All right. I'll give one last chance. Anyone?

ARMSTRONG: Well, I do have one question for Mr. Hessel. Your numbers for the number of registered voters and the number of the people who signed the petition, could you give me those again?

HESSEL: Sure. Again, I got them from the Board of Election Commissioners. There's 309 registered voters in the area, and 271 signatures were gathered on the petitions.

ARMSTRONG: My math makes that 87 percent, not 77 percent.

HESSEL: There was 271 signatures, 237 of which were approved.

BAKER: Right. There was ... I should have pointed that out. I apologize. The Board of Election Commissioners approved ...

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: The Board of Election established 237 as valid signatures.

ARMSTRONG: Gotcha. All right. I just couldn't figure out the difference. Thank you.

BAKER: Sorry for the math confusion.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: All right, folks. That concludes the St. Louis County presentation. We will now have the public speaking portion. I will get the forms. Robert, will you keep time?

FORD: Let me know when it's a group.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: All right, folks. I will call up the first person and then as I call them up, I will call the next name for the person on deck. And if you are speaking as an individual, you will be given three minutes. If you're speaking on behalf of a group, you'll be given five minutes. And I will go with what you indicated on the public speaker form. So the first person, and I apologize if I get your names wrong, I'm sorry. Russell Zacritz [sounds like] and after Mr. Zacritz will be James Bouchard. Mr. Zacritz, are you here? Going once, Mr. Zacritz. Mr. Zacritz. Sold. All right. Mr. Bouchard, James Bouchard. And after Mr. Bouchard will be Judy Witzen [sounds like]. Mr. Bouchard is an individual. Three minutes.

BOUCHARD: Thank you. I heard a lot of comments about how great both services were, and as an owner of a condominium in Sunset Park complex, St. Louis County, Missouri, I've been entirely satisfied with the St. Louis County Government and professional services and also the fire district since my date of purchase, 1990.

Furthermore, I also consider the police services as excellent. It is noticed that the taxes for the area are reasonable and suitable to our income. I know of no reason, and I'm perplexed over how this came about, but I know of no reason to ask for annexation of Florissant for any cause.

It is my hope that the annexation petition is considered void due to reports, I can't prove now, but I have heard with regard to procedures used to gain approval of the petition. These reports indicate that the Boundary Commission has received proof and evidence of same. It is my hope, and these procedures will be mentioned openly in the course of these hearings but apparently they will not. If they are, I believe it will be clear to everybody why I oppose this petition for the same reasons.

And I request, I personally request a strong consideration of void the petition submitted for those causes and reasons because if they are true, there's no way they can be ever proved accurate. The reports and statements were reportedly submitted to the Boundary Commission. I can't prove it. I can't prove what the witness stated. The witness stated ... his name is William Kirksy [sounds like] ... he's not here tonight. I don't know why. 1820 Sunset Way. It was stated to me that the police officer lied to gain his signature on the petition. His statement would prove this lie. I can't prove it. It was further reported to Len Groszek, St. Louis County, and to my understanding, it was submitted in written detail to the Boundary Commission. This was confirmed to me by Mr. Len Groszek, to be an accurate evaluation of the witness's statements and the implications as I just described. You have to please read the statements; the truth will speak for itself. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Next up, Judy Witzen. And after Miss Witzen will be Wayne Golladay [sounds like].

WITZEN: First off, I think that it's really important that no one is condemning St. Louis County. I don't think anyone is saying we don't want to be a part of St. Louis County. We will continue to be a part of St. Louis County even if we become residents of Florissant. I live at 1920 Sunsup Court in the Sunset Park Condos. Our association did go to the City of Florissant and asked to be annexed. Florissant and St. Louis County officials met with us. Unfortunately, some people like to gripe or complain but yet not attend meetings. They want to listen to hearsay and if they're listening to hearsay, they're not always getting accurate information. I'm excited about becoming part of Florissant if that happens. I think it's a progressive community that offers superior services, not denigrating

St. Louis County services. I think Florissant has an excellent police department, not once again denigrating St. Louis County. I've dealt with St. Louis County Police Department, and I have nothing unfavorable to say about them. Because we're so close to the City of Florissant, it seems very logical to me that we should become part of their community. I'm hopeful that this will come to fruition and that we will become part of Florissant and as far as the 75 percent of signatures or 77 or whatever the exact number is, when you consider elections and voter turnout that 75 percent of signatures is to me far greater than the normal people that would attend an election unless it's a general election for president. You have a much higher turnout then, but otherwise you're lucky to get 40 percent of the people that are actively registered voters to participate, so I think that clearly 75 percent of people saying we would like to become Florissant is an adamant thing that ... that's our desire. That's about all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Thank you 'mam. Next up, Wayne Golladay. Wayne Golladay. Wayne Golladay. All right. Miss Fiegel. All right. Next up, Warner Nelson. Mr. Nelson, all right?

NELSON: That's me.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: All right, and after that will be Lloyd Seabaugh [sounds like]. Speaking as an individual, Mr. Nelson?

NELSON: Yes, I am.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: All up to you.

NELSON: I'm a resident and ... of the condo complex and I was also one of the people who went around and collected signatures. And I can't speak for everybody else, but I think that most of the people that I know of, and I've heard of went out to tell people straight up the truth in what they were doing, and I think above all, to supply answers for them if they had questions. In my area that I collected, I don't think I really had one person that felt intimidated. I only had one person that had a question regarding taxation and did not sign, but other than that, I had everybody else sign that we could get a hold of and as somebody

else pointed out, there were some people who have already moved that weren't there any more so that decreases your numbers a little bit. But the people would say, "Well, what is this going to do to my taxes?" or "What kind of benefits are we going to get?" And we would supply them the answers and, you know, let them make the decision as to whether they signed or not. And we did not say ... again, I can't speak for everybody else, but I did not say anything about an election. I said it was we were collecting signatures in favor of the annexation by Florissant. And, like I say, I did ... I was really kind of surprised when I heard of a couple of these stories, and I think, like the lady just pointed out, in anything you're going to get some negativity from people and people who are going to feel this way or that way, but I didn't see any police processions through our area at all and I had some conversations with some people from the City of Florissant and they were very cooperative in supplying me information about taxes and things like that, and I think that helped some of the people's decisions, but that's what we're there for is to find out how many people would be in favor of signing the petitions. So, I hope that may clear up some of the misconceptions or some of the problems that some people may have had. And again, the areas that I walked and talked to people about were very cooperative. We didn't have any of those problems. Anybody have any questions that I can answer for you?

WOJTKOWSKI: Tom, I would like to ask a question.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Okay.

WOJTKOWSKI: I'm sorry, your name was?

NELSON: Warner.

WOJTKOWSKI: Warner. You need to help me a little bit.

NELSON: Okay.

WOJTKOWSKI: Can you perhaps summarize what the benefit is that you and your fellow members of the condominium association ... what the benefit is that you feel you're going to achieve via this annexation?

NELSON: Well, that's a good question. I mean that's what everybody would like to know, I'm sure, you know. I was at this meeting that we had with all the people from Florissant, and they did a very informative presentation of the things that they had to offer. And myself, like a lot of the people that were there and hopefully the people that signed the petitions feel that like the map we had up here, we're an incremental part of Florissant to begin with and that the benefits in our mind probably are all the things that they have to offer like the park services and all the older adult programs and the police too, that there was some indication, again not getting a battle between the County and Florissant, but there were some benefits to being serviced by Florissant police. And a lot of other things like that. The park that's going down the street from us. That's all part of... that's going to be part of Florissant and ... but I think the one big overriding thing is that we're already part of Florissant. We're right there, and they just, I think most people feel and people I've talked to in our complex that there would be a lot of benefits from being associated with Florissant. And that's not taking anything away from the County 'cause I think we're ... I haven't heard of any gigantic complaints against the County.

WOJTKOWSKI: It sounds to me like those benefits are somewhat unclear. You're assuming there's going to be benefits.

NELSON: That's what we've been told.

WOJTKOWSKI: Okay.

FORD: There was mention that people had indicated that they may have said no, and people would come back two or three times to get that signature. Do you know of any situations that someone said no and people kept going back to try to get them to sign the petition?

NELSON: I don't personally. Like I say, I only had a handful of people that I missed, and I went back the second time or maybe a third time, but those were people that I missed, you know, that were not physically there. I didn't have ... I only had one person and I think I had about 20 or somewhere in there on my list to begin with. I only had one person that said no, and I never went ... I never went back to him. But everybody else that had

questions, I tried to get them answers. But basically, most of the people were people I didn't miss so to answer your question, no, I don't know personally of any of those.

FORD: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: All right. Thank you, sir.

NELSON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Next up is Lloyd Seabaugh, and after Lloyd Seabaugh will be Leslie Seabaugh.

SEABAUGH: My name's Lloyd Seabaugh. I moved in here from St. Peter's. And that is a swell town out there. They really run that straight. Well, I moved in here because I thought ... some of my children live over in here and I'm past 39, you know, and I thought maybe they might watch after me a little bit. But I thought maybe we'd get better parks. I moved in here and I found out we can't use the parks so I came in here and I found out we can't use the senior citizens over in Florissant. You can't use it in Hazelwood either. And I've been using senior citizens all over the country, down it Lootsville [sounds like], out in Troy, and up in St. Peters, out in O'Fallon, and out in St. Charles. We just walked in there and signed your name, put your money in the box and you eat dinner. Down here you can't do it. But I'm a gonna tell you one thing that I like St. Louis County, but I thought it would be better off to be in Florissant and there'd be better buses, better rides, you get to ride, we get better [inaudible]. We could use the pool over here. Can't use the pool. And I got a hold of the mayor and I asked the mayor about this road over here, Sunset Park Road. I said, "How come they don't have a speed limit on that?" He said, "Well, it belongs to the County." I said, "What? You mean the County don't have no speed limit on that?" He said, "No, we can't put a speed limit on there because it belongs to the County." It goes to their park, goes to our park but it belongs to them, right along the high lines. But I hear the squealing of the tires, the guys go out there with these high-powered Mustangs, *shwoooooom* [sounds like]. You can hear them from my apartment and almost got hit in the rear end one day. Lady come down there 60 miles an hour or better in a pickup truck and almost hit me and then started blowing the horn ... wanted to know what I was poking along for. I don't try to break no laws. I try to

drive the speed limit. I haven't had no tickets since I been here. But I like Florissant. We used to live over here on Teson Road, for 37 years way back when there wasn't no ... just a little bitty old town Florissant, you know, now it's spread out all over the whole country out here. Hazelwood. There never was no Hazelwood. I worked at Ford Motor Company and there was no Hazelwood. Finally, they build Hazelwood. Only little town we had was down there Robertson, that was the post office. Then they let us get the post office over here in Florissant. But I think when you can come out here we're be have better police department. We got a fire department right across the street. And I think everything would be fine. I've been here two and a half years.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: All right, Mr. Seabaugh, that's three minutes. That's the time.

SEABAUGH: Huh?

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: We get three minutes per speaker. Time's up.

SEABAUGH: I'm hard of hearing.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: I'm sorry, sir. The time's up.

_____ Your time's up. Go sit down. Go with Grandma.

SEABAUGH: My time's up?

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Yes, sir. Thank you for coming. All right. Next up will be Leslie Seabaugh.

SEABAUGH2: Hi. I purchased my condo about six years ago and when I actually purchased it, I thought I was buying in Florissant. I grew up in Florissant my entire life. And when I found out I wasn't, I honestly was disappointed, and when I came in, the community has improved considerably with the things the board has done. I'm on the board of directors also. I also helped with the petition drive. The benefits that I see are the increased police protection. I know everybody with St. Louis County is saying that they have great police protection, and I know on two instances in the evening on Friday night, I called regarding a complaint against a neighbor. It was about 10:30. Of course, it was not an emergency. I told

them that up front. But an hour and a half later an officer still had not shown up at my door. I called to cancel the police. To me you cancel a pizza, not the police. That to me is a major issue. I do not like it, and I know that when I had problems at home with my mom and dad when I lived there, the Florissant cops would be there. There'd be two or three or a fire truck or whatever they needed and felt that they would be there immediately. That to me is one of the biggest things. Also as you know, my grandparents live in the complex. I want to have them to be able to use the senior services, the program where they can call them everyday and make sure they're okay. I am handy and close, but any kind of protection we can have for our elderly residents is a benefit to the entire community. We have a large community of elderly in our complex and that is a benefit that I see for everyone including the younger people like myself. Me personally, I would like to be able to use the Civic Center, the pools, the parks, to be able to give the kids a place to go. There's a lot of younger families that can't afford a single dwelling home. They had to buy a condo because of the increased savings in cost, that they can't go to the Civic Centers, they can't get in. And with Florissant they would have that capabilities. The other thing, the County is talking about all these programs that they've been meeting. I've been here for seven years and I never heard of them. That to me is an issue. Why didn't they let us know that these programs were there? Why is there not information saying that you can do these things? I don't know if they're not wanting people to use them so that they're saving money, but to me if they're there, they should be letting us know. That was one of the major issues that I wanted to go into Florissant, and I feel it is a very big benefit going into Florissant area.

And if you have any questions as far as the ballot petition, I took signatures. I had one lady that told me no. Everybody else was like, "Oh, my God, thank God this is coming up. I want to be part of Florissant. I want to be able to use the civic centers, the parks, let my kids go to the day camps, the basketball camps, and all of that." I had more people that was thrilled that this was coming up to a petition so that we can, and I really do hope that approve this as Florissant has put it as a Simple Ballot because I can tell you myself, I don't go vote. I don't ... the last election, I didn't go up there because I didn't get off work in time. I have to be at work at 6 o'clock in the morning. I didn't get off until 7:30 at night. So I can't make it to a ballot, and this is something that I walked around and got the signatures for on my own time.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Thank you, ma'am. Next up will be Tim Lee and after Mr. Lee will be Felicia O'Neal.

LEE: I'm Tim Lee. I'm the Florissant City Councilman for Ward 1, and these people would be represented by me if I were ... if they are annexed into the City of Florissant. Couple of issues I just want to touch on very briefly. Number one, the City of Florissant did not ever have a uniformed police officer in there doing anything with this petition drive whatsoever. There were non ... there was one and possibly two non-uniformed officers that were assisting with that so ... which kind of gets me to the second issue is the complaints. We haven't seen those complaints, Mr. Hayek. Now, maybe the Mayor or the City Clerk got something, but we haven't seen anything about that, and we've heard a couple of times about these alleged complaints about the process and so forth, but I don't know if they're verified, I don't know if they're verified that they're people that live in these areas that are complaining, but you've heard from the people, a couple, that were out getting the signatures. Do they look like the kind of people that are going to intimidate residents and keep going back and pounding on them? I mean if I'm out getting signatures and somebody says "no," "no" means "no." I'm not going to waste my time. We were approached by residents and by the association and they said they had an interest in being annexed in the City of Florissant. We met with them. We answered their questions. We answered them honestly and completely. We told them what the City had to offer them. The unincorporated St. Louis County also met with them, and they did the same thing. I was at that meeting as well. They were open and honest. Nobody's debating whether or not both are able to provide services to them or which are better, but, in this case, 77 percent of the residents have said they indicated they wished to be part of the City of Florissant. To me and to us, we feel that that's an overwhelming majority. Mr. Baker talked about, you know, the differences between a ballot issue and a signature issue, and somebody touched on it earlier. We had a paper ... the paper reported that unprecedented 40 percent voter turnout for this primary. You know, if that would be the same voter turnout in an election, you're talking 21 percent making a decision. The number of signatures we have, some of them were disallowed, but we still had an overwhelming majority of the people here that indicated that they wanted to be part of the City of Florissant, so I urge you to consider this. This is what

these people want. I think clearly the Statute, in my opinion, you know, allowed for that when there's no reason to believe that that's not in the best interest. And I think the people have spoken so I hope that you will approve that.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Thank you for your time, Mr. Lee. Next up is Felicia O'Neal. Felicia, oh yeah, there we are. Okay. And after her will be Robert Miller. Miss O'Neal.

O'NEAL: Yes. I've been a resident of Sunset Park association for 15 years, and we always wanted to be into Florissant because of the facilities we could use. They're close by. We don't have to go so many miles away to be at them. Another thing, I worked on the petition. I took the votes and I never, never went back the second time to try to discourage somebody to change their mind because we just didn't do it. They said "no" like I said, we just took off and left. So, I mean we're really looking forward to being in with Florissant and use their facilities. I'm a senior citizen and there's a lot more like me there and it is to our advantage to be in with Florissant. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Thank you, ma'am. Next up will be Robert Miller, and last, but certainly not least, Mr. Hessel.

MILLER: Good evening, everybody. I'm here today. I was late because I had to work, and I received the notice about this meeting, and I'm assuming it's also covering the Pleasant Hollow subdivision as well.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Actually, sir ...

MILLER: That's not

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: ... it is not.

MILLER: because ... it is not. When did that change 'cause I had ...

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Just probably today if not yesterday evening. The City of Florissant has withdrawn its proposal ...

MILLER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: ... to annex the area including the Pleasant Hollow subdivision.

MILLER: Have a good evening.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: You too, sir. Mr. Hessel.

HESSEL: Thank you again. I will be brief, and I want to tell you I appreciate Jim Baker's comments. It reminds me why I am fortunate to have him as a friend. We have spent a lot of time discussing the petitioning process and I agree with Jim. The petition process is not perfect, and I suggest to you that is why the Missouri Legislature set a hurdle of 75 percent in order to achieve the Simplified Annexation Proposal. And I also suggest that you shouldn't ignore all the petitions that were gathered based upon some complaints, anecdotal information. Again, I agree with Jim and appreciate his comments. He and I are in agreement that the validity of those complaints we cannot assess. We can judge by the amount of complaints that you've received this evening with respect to the petitioning process and by my count, with the exception of Mr. Bouchard, who really wasn't ... didn't have any direct information, was second-, perhaps third-hand information, you heard from the people who gathered the petitions themselves, and you identified the process. I will also confirm the same information that Mr. Lee gave you.

There were no uniformed officers over was in [sounds like] the Sunset Park Condominium complex. In summation, I guess I would merely say again we recognize and acknowledge the services that St. Louis County has provide. We respect their abilities to provide those services. They cover a wide area as Jim Baker pointed out to you with a very dedicated staff. It's a big area to cover. As you've heard from some of the citizens, Florissant has some things to offer as well. We offer them on a more local level with a smaller level of government, including the senior programs that were mentioned, the parks, the police, code enforcement, street maintenance, and access to local representation and access to the council members, the mayor, and the staff more quickly. We again suggest to you this is truly an appropriate Simplified Annexation Proposal. We ask you to consider it. I think you've clearly heard the people speaking this evening, and again we would ask you to approve it.

CHAIRMAN HAYEK: Thank you, Mr. Hessel. Folks, that concludes the public speaker portion of the meeting and will also conclude our meeting. I want to appreciate ... I want to thank you all for your conduct this evening and coming and hearing us. This concludes the Public Hearing.

Approved: November 16, 2004