

**BOUNDARY COMMISSION
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
TRANSCRIPT OF
BC2501 PLAN OF INTENT PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF BALLWIN SIMPLIFIED BOUNDARY CHANGE:
ANNEXATION OF ARBOR CREST SUBDIVISION**

OCTOBER 28, 2025

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners	Present (P)/Absent (A)
Will Lauber	P
Tom Mooney	P
Steve O'Rourke	P
Ann Pluemer	P
George Riddick	P
Stephanie Robinson	P
Tom Schneider	P
Ben Uchitelle	P (via Zoom)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Dougherty, Executive Director

Michael Hart, Legal Counsel

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: The Boundary Commission, BC2501, a proposal for the Simplified Boundary Change: annexation of Arbor Crest Subdivision by the City of Ballwin, Missouri. We'll start off with the introductory remarks. I have a prepared statement I'll read for you here. This is a public hearing to hear a proposal from the City

of Ballwin on the proposed simplified boundary change annexation of Arbor Crest Subdivision. I'd like to begin with just a few introductory comments relating to the Boundary Commission.

The Boundary Commission is an independent government body that reviews boundary change proposals in St. Louis County. It derives its authority from the state statutes and from St. Louis County ordinance. The Commission is comprised of 11 members, along with our two staff members, Executive Director, Michelle Dougherty, and our legal counsel, Mike Hart. The 11 commissioners are all appointed according to the following: four are appointed through the St. Louis County Municipal League on behalf of mayors of small cities, mayors of mid-sized cities, and mayors of large cities. Four members are appointed by the County Executive, and three members are joint appointments of the Municipal League and the County Executive. We have three vacancies, and they are all joint appointments. We meet monthly with additional public hearings scheduled as necessary to consider map plans and boundary change proposals.

Tonight's informational public hearing provides an opportunity for Ballwin to explain and comment on this proposed simplified boundary change: annexation of the area assigned file case number BC2501. Public comments will be directed at the simplified boundary change: annexation being discussed tonight, and the Commission staff will be available after the meeting to answer questions, any questions regarding the process. The Commission welcomes your participation in the public comment section of tonight's public hearing. However, you will need to fill out and present to Michelle, who's sitting down here at the end, a public comment form. We ask that you do this prior to the end of St. Louis County's presentation. Whether you are speaking as an individual or on behalf of an organization, you will have five minutes. We do ask that you keep your comments brief.

The Commission will take public comments, either by letter or email for up to 21 days after tonight's meeting. The deadline for written public comment is November 18, 2025. All comments spoken here or written are part of the public record. As a reminder, no

decision will be made tonight. The Commission will review the information in the proposal by Ballwin and your comments and any comments that we receive within the next 21 days.

We have four months to make a decision, but those four months began when it was submitted, which was August 18, 2025 so the decision date is December 18, 2025. Ballwin will have 15 minutes followed by questions from the commissioners. After that, St. Louis County will have 15 minutes followed by questions from the commissioners. After that, the public comment section will begin. Reminder that you must fill out a public comment form and get it to Michelle before the end of St. Louis County's presentation. We ask that you respect the time guideline, five minutes, as a reminder. And I will now have the Commission members introduce themselves and include their residence and their appointing authorities. So, we will begin with Steve O'Rourke.

O'ROURKE: Steve O'Rourke, St Louis County, West County.

RIDDICK: George Riddick, Unincorporated, St Louis County

PLUEMER: Ann Pluemer, South County, unincorporated, and I was appointed by Steve Stenger, former County Executive.

ROBINSON: Stephanie Robinson, North County, appointed by the City of Berkeley, responsible for population under 10,000.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: My name is Tom Mooney. I was appointed by the County Executive, and I am the representative of the incorporated area of Clarkson Valley.

LAUBER: Will Lauber, Live in Kirkwood, and was appointed by the mayors of large cities.

SCHNEIDER: Tom Schneider, retired mayor of Florissant, appointed by the Municipal League to represent large cities.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: And Michelle down here, and Mike down there

DOUGHERTY: and Ben when he gets his video back on.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: If he's there...

DOUGHERTY: he can always introduce himself when he gets...

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Ben is a former mayor of the city of Clayton., he was appointed by the Municipal League

DOUGHERTY: ...midsize cities.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: ...for mid-sized cities. Yes, thank you. Yeah. All right, let's move on to the presentation from Ballwin.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Okay, good evening, everyone. My name is Eric Sterman. I'm the city administrator for the city of Ballwin. With me is Lynn Sprick, who's a city planner for the city of Ballwin. And in the audience is Mayor Mark Stallman, Mayor of the City of Ballwin. So, we're all here to present. Happy to answer any questions that the Commission may have. And then, of course, we have some representatives of the subdivision that I'm sure would be happy to speak or answer questions as well. So, I have a clock. I plan to be less than 15 minutes, but if I go too long, just give me the stink eye or something.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Give you the gavel.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): So, we're here before you tonight regarding the proposed annexation of the Arbor Crest Subdivision. Arbor Crest is a small subdivision off of Ries Road, south of Big Bend. It is actually immediately adjacent and south of the Cascade subdivision, which we were before this body a couple years ago to annex that subdivision. We have since done so, and now the Arbor Crest Subdivision has expressed an interest in annexation. So, we are here before you, proposing a simplified boundary change, which, as you know, is one of the options available for annexation. This option is triggered by a petition signed by 75% or more of the registered voters in the subdivision, and that is the work undertaken by the trustees of the subdivision. They really, you know, all of or any annexation we do. We really ask that it be resident-driven. Ballwin isn't out really soliciting or seeking annexations. We've been growing a little bit over the years, sort of slow and steady and measured, and so what we typically do is... we get inquiries periodically from subdivisions such as Arbor Crest. We, you know, do some analysis on our own side to make sure that it's a good fit for the city. Much of that analysis is in the plan of intent that you have before you. And then, of course, we do put that burden on the

subdivision that if they wish to be annexed, Ballwin seeks, really to use the simplified boundary change process. And that does put the burden on the residents to seek that petition, and in this case, they have done so, and I believe you have a copy of that. And again, I'm going to hit through the 11 factors I believe that I'm supposed to. But again, if I miss any or there's any questions, jump in at any time.

So again, as I mentioned, this subdivision is just to the south of the Cascades, which was annexed by Ballwin in 2022 and then just sort of catty corner to Oak Brook Elementary and Arbor Trails, which is the subject of the other petition that we have before you tonight, later on this evening. And like I said, it's a relatively small subdivision consisting of 34 single family homes. I know I'm supposed to answer, you know, implications regarding the tax base, and we can talk about that. The numbers are in the plan of intent. As you can imagine, it's a pretty negligible impact, really, on both sides. I don't want to speak for St Louis County.

Ballwin does not have a property tax so they would continue to pay the St. Louis County property taxes that they're paying today. You know, the sales tax. We're all part of the sales tax pool in the County, so obviously that's generated on a per capita basis. That would result in a little bit less for the County, a little bit more for Ballwin. But largely, taxation is not a significant element of this proposal, there are basically two taxes that would go up for these residents. Utility tax would go from the 5% county rate to the 7% City of Ballwin rate, and then the local sales tax rate. When you buy a car, you pay the sales tax rate for the city you live in, not where you buy it. And so, in this case, when you buy a car, you'd pay the Ballwin sales tax rate, which is a little more than a percent higher than the unincorporated rate. But other than that, obviously, sales tax is based on where you shop, not where you live. The City of Ballwin does not have a use tax, neither does the County, so that would be unchanged. Again, property taxes would be unchanged. And you know, it's like I said, we can dive into the numbers if you wish, but it is relatively negligible to really to both parties.

Legal description, I am not going to read that, but it describes the boundaries of the area to be annexed. I will defer to the lawyers, if there are any questions. We're asked to speak to whether it creates logical municipal boundaries. And I think that it does. Obviously, the Boundary Commission rules require that any area to be annexed is at least 15% contiguous to the city doing the annexation. In this case, we've calculated it to be a little over 20% and it would actually be higher if the other annexation this evening were to go through, because, again, this is all sort of one contiguous area. And again, this, you know, it abuts Ballwin. There would be, you know, no issues of access or service delivery, we are already have annexed and serviced the neighboring subdivision and may service another neighboring subdivision if the other annexation proposal were to go through. So, this area, kind of to our southeast, has been really the only area in which we've looked to grow in recent years. It's been on our map plan for a number of years, and just very slowly, we've, we've, looked at, you know, incorporating some of these subdivisions, again.

Compactness of area. You know, I don't want to repeat myself, but it's right off of Ries Road, which we, you know, have annexed. The portion of Ries Road just to the edge of this subdivision. I was actually speaking with St Louis County tonight. We have not included annexing the roadway in this proposal. If that is something that the County and or the Commission would want to see, we are open to that. But we didn't want to be presumptuous and include any of that. So really, either way, whether that's a county road or a city road, it still be very accessible to us. And obviously, we have other county roads, we have state roads, we have local, municipally owned roads that we use to access subdivisions throughout the city.

Services, again, I won't go through this entire list. It's kind of a matrix of how, you know, how the services are provided currently, when the subdivision is unincorporated, and how they would be provided in the City of Ballwin. They are very similar, by and large. Most of the services that were provided by the County would now be provided by the City of Ballwin. You know, trash being one exception, which we both contract with a respective hauler. But other than that...

Library, obviously, is a county-wide service. Metro West is the fire district. So, there is no fire service provided by either entity in this case. So again, I won't go through it all. There are a couple of services we provide that the County doesn't, but by and large, everything else is a transfer from one to the other.

Regards of timing. I mean, we're really flexible in terms of what the Commission is comfortable with. You know, I would ask, and we would probably want at least 30 to 60 days' notice, simply for the opportunity to communicate with the residents. You know, we've done a few of these in the past, and we like to have that window to inform the residents of how things might change, or just who to talk to. You know, we update our, you know, our CAD system and things for our police and for our public works and just so that they know where to go and where to maintain so that typically can be done anywhere from 30 to 60 days. If it's longer, that's okay too. That's really up to what the Commission is comfortable with, but we would cut over all services on day one, and we've always worked really well with the County, in regard to that. In fact, the police can remember, when we annexed the neighboring subdivision, there was an incident, I think, on day one, and they were very gracious, and we worked together to deal with that.

The only exception to that is trash service. There is a state statute that mandates that we cannot require an annexed area to use our contracted trash hauler for up to two years. They have the option to use them if they wish, but they can also stay with the County's hauler for up to two years if they wish. And so, that's really, we've always, historically just left that up to the subdivision.

Tax rates. Again, I kind of touched on this. Real estate tax would not change. Sales tax would go up, but like I said, that's based on where you shop. The only direct impact to the neighborhood would be if you purchase a vehicle. Personal Property Tax, again, is unchanged. And then utility tax, I mentioned we are 2% higher than the County.

Sources and revenues, as you can see, it is, you know, relatively negligible. These are public safety taxes, a sales tax, and again, but it's, but it's distributed per capita. So that's where, where you see some of these sales taxes come to us. It's because... it's a per capita formula governed by the County. So, we expect a relatively nominal impact financially, and same for the County. I mean, obviously, I'll let the County speak for themselves, but there will be some impact on the tax base of each party, but not significant, and shouldn't really materially affect either of us.

Current Zoning. It is currently zoned County R-2, but it was also developed under a planned unit development. A planned development that dictated sort of the rules for the development of the subdivision. What we would anticipate is adopting, likely R-2 or whatever zoning district is most applicable to theirs. But we would also then carry over that plan development so whatever set of rules the homes and the subdivision was developed under, we would carry that over into Ballwin so that everybody would be grandfathered in, and there really wouldn't be a significant impact from a zoning perspective. Let's see. I apologize. Yeah, we would, we would look to zone them as our Ballwin R-2 with carrying over that overlay.

Again, effective date. We sort of left this blank. I mean, whatever you guys are comfortable with, I know in the past, we kind of did them on January 1, just because that was a clean date to do it. But the calendar may not afford us that option this time around, because I'm not sure when that approval, if it does come, would come. But again, whatever the Commission is comfortable with. And again, we stand before you. You know we're really just here to represent the wishes of the subdivision that took the time to distribute and get this petition before you. The Board of Aldermen of Ballwin and the Mayor have voted on this and considered it and looked at the impact of the city and decided that it is ultimately a good fit. So, we are just simply here before you with that request and happy to answer any questions. That's it, right.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Commissioners, questions?

HART: Who has jurisdiction?

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Mike, do you have a question?

HART: Who would have jurisdiction on Ries Road, on the part that goes between the area to be annexed and Ballwin?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): So...

HART: ...going to annex it. Would the county retain jurisdiction then ...

BALLWIN (STERMAN): I guess I was

HART: for annexing?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): That piece of Ries Road immediately to the west of the subdivision is not in the proposal. Currently, we would be receptive to annexing that or annexing to the midway line. I've seen it done different ways, depending, I really, I guess I would defer to the wishes of the County. You may recall, this was a matter of some debate. when we annexed the Cascades and Charleston Oaks just to the north, the county asked us that, in that particular case, they asked us to annex Ries Road because we were annexing both sides of the road. So, it made logical sense. So, we said, "Sure, happy to do it." In this case, because the west side of the road would still be County, I guess I did not want to be presumptuous. If the County wishes for us to annex it, we would and maintain it. If they do not wish for us to do that, that is fine as well. So that's a question we can talk about.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Other questions from Commissioners? You want to ask Ben, if he has questions?

PLUEMER: I have a question, I'll

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Go ahead.

PLUEMER: And so, you have consent from 75% of the subdivision.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Yes.

PLUEMER: Okay. What about the other 25%? You couldn't get a hold of them? Are they? Are they?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): I would respectfully defer that question to the trustees. The City did not, does not distribute the petition. We do not seek the signatures. It's actually

self-initiated by the trustees and the subdivision. So, I know 75% is the threshold that the Boundary Commission requires. So, whether, I'm sure there's some people that don't want to sign it, maybe some people aren't available. Maybe, maybe they hit 75% and said, we're good. I don't know, but they will be speaking or available during the public comment, and I'm sure could speak to that.

LAUBER: I guess along those lines, have there? Have you heard of any people that live in the area that are against doing this?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): I've not. I mean, again, I, you know, would defer to the trustees and to the subdivision. But if, if there are people opposed, they haven't contacted us directly.

LAUBER: And then on the services... It looked like the leaf pickup and, I guess, the street lights and installation that was covered by the subdivision currently. And you guys...

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Yeah. Those tend to be two things that the County doesn't provide that we do. So, we do a seasonal leaf pickup. We go around with leaf vacuums. And you know, you rake your leaves to the curb. We suck them up over about a six-week period. Actually, it started this past Monday. And then street lights. The City pays for the electric bill, the Ameren bill for subdivision street lights, which the County, I don't believe typically does. So, I know... again, I don't want to speak for the subdivision. I know oftentimes those are costs, at least, particularly on the street lights that come out of HOA fees or the subdivision's pockets that the City will now bear, so that does influence their thinking on these.

LAUBER: I just had a quick question. I haven't done one of these hearings when the public presents, are we allowed to ask them any questions or not during the hearing?

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Generally, not. But we're available afterwards.

DOUGHERTY: Ben is ready.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right. Ben, go ahead.

DOUGHERTY: Hold on.

UCHITELLE: Question. Was it the unanimous vote of the folks in Ballwin to approve the annexation, if it goes through?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Yes. Yes, it was a unanimous vote.

UCHITELLE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, last call. Other discussion? Questions?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): All right, thank you. I'll be back up here later tonight anyway, so, all right, if you think of anything else, let's see again.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, next up presentation from St. Louis County. I will start your clock when you start talking, so whenever you're ready.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (HENSLEY): Sure. You. Whoa...All right, good evening, Commissioners and members of the public. My name is Joel Hensley, principal planner for long range planning with the County. Happy to be with you here tonight to discuss and present on BC2501 Ballwin Arbor Crest Annexation request.

Sorry, you're gonna hear a lot of the information you just heard, but that's the protocol, right? So getting underway, this boundary change request has been verified with County staff to adhere with the standards set forth by state legislation, RSMO 72.405 which requires a verification, verified petition for annexation be signed by 75% of the voters within the proposed area, and preliminary use is residential in nature, with an average residential density of not less than one dwelling per three acres. If approved by the Commission, this boundary change will not require a formal vote by the residents for formal approval. The Boundary Commission, in reviewing this request, must determine the following, that the request is in the best interest of the municipality, which is Ballwin, that the proposed area of annexation is currently part of unincorporated St Louis County, and that areas of the County adjacent to the proposed boundary are not adversely affected. Additionally, we talked about these 11 factors already, as you can see them here listed on the screen. These are for consideration for this proposal. Staff, our staff have put these considerations into the following categories: geography, financial and service provision, and zoning and land use.

So, first we'll talk about geography based on the context in St. Louis County, the proposed area and the new boundaries. So, first regarding St. Louis County as a whole, we have a population of just about 979,000 people. We provide local services to all the residents that currently are in unincorporated areas of the County. We provide and contract services with 90% of the municipalities within St. Louis County. The County's philosophy is to provide the highest level of professional staff and our best level of service possible. We maintain multiple points of contact throughout the County, including full-time legislative assistant for the seventh council district. Tonight's request takes place adjacent to the city of Ballwin, located in the southwest part of district seven. The proposed annexation is for the Arbor Crest Subdivision, which consists of 34 housing units with an estimated population of about 100 residents. The area in question is about 14 acres and has an assessed valuation of \$2.7 million. Right, as part of the geographic review of this application, staff reviewed the requested information based on legal description of the proposed area. Again, the compactness and logic and reasonable creation of the new municipal boundary, per state statute, any potential annexation by a local municipality requires a minimum of 15% continuity of the proposed boundary. This one, as you already heard, has about 20% and that meets the compliance and is deemed appropriate by our staff.

So now we'll take a look at land use and zoning. As you already heard, our request. Subdivision is currently R-2 and is primarily a residential use, all right, and if the annex, if the annexation is approved, it will continue to be R-2 as we already heard. It will remain residential in its nature.

And so, I'll just move right along into the financial aspects of this. As part of the annexation process, our staff reviewed the proposal to understand the potential impact of the tax base and revenue and current tax rates, and then sources of revenue, and the property tax and all those things that are going to be affected in that which you've already heard a lot of.

So, per the St. Louis County Rate Book from 2024 we can tell this annexation will not cause an increase of residential tax, commercial real estate tax, or personal property or well will affect personal property tax. All right, and the City of Ballwin, we already heard they have their 1% sales tax and food sales tax. And then here we have an example, the breakdown of the additional tax, which we've already talked about, that you can expect if you bought a vehicle on the open market today.

So, I'll just move right into service positions that the County is providing. So first off, the County provides police services for the proposed area which has the highest capacity throughout the County and maintains the CALEA accreditation. Additionally, the County is providing some of the permitting services for Ballwin and will continue to cooperate with them on that. The County provides snow removal services for residential streets within unincorporated areas. The County provides street maintenance for all the subject roads within the proposed area. And as of recently, we've had a pavement condition rating of five or higher throughout that area, which is pretty decent.

St. Louis County Parks. We have amazing parks that are open to all the County residents and everybody outside. We're managing over 12,000 acres for everyone to enjoy throughout the County. The County also provides animal control and pet adoption services. Please remember to spay and neuter your pets. The County provides affordable waste management services, and we'll continue that. And then finally, the annexation, we'll see a little bit of a change in the sewer lateral repair system, where the County provides a no cap to repair coverage, and the City of Ballwin, to our understanding, currently covers up to \$4,500.

So, in summary, a lot of that, you've already heard; appreciate your patience with me going through it again. The County provides high quality services to unincorporated residents at a low cost. The County is especially proud of the quality of our services and our police. The County will submit to the Commission a written report of our analysis within the 21-day timeline. So, thank you again. My name is Joel. I kept it short and sweet,

but if you have any additional questions, you can always reach me at the County building in Clayton.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, thank you. Commissioners... questions? Joel. I have one, it's...

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (HENSLEY): Sure.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: What is the County's opinion on this? Yay, nay?

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (HENSLEY): Yeah, we don't really. There's no real big issues from our end. I just will say the question to Ries Road, I wouldn't be able to answer that, because that's going to affect multiple departments, and so I wouldn't want to speak on behalf of anybody without having consented with them first.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Okay, all right. And you said the signatures, as part of that statute, the County has verified the signatures on the petition?

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (HENSLEY): Based on what we've received from Ballwin, everything looks to be in order.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right. Do you want to ask Ben if he has any questions? Michelle...

UCHITELLE: I have none.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Okay, thank you, Ben.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (HENSLEY): All right, well, I'll be around in case you change your mind. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: That brings us to public comment. Okay, we have two people speaking for public comment. When I call your name, come on up to the front to the podium. Please state your name so we have that for the record. And then you will have five minutes. We'll start with Donna Jimenez.

JIMENEZ: Good evening. My name is Donna Jimenez. I am the Arbor Crest Subdivision secretary. I am the one who personally did the legwork. I heard a lot of you had a lot of questions on signatures. How many didn't agree with it, etc. I can speak on that, since I'm the one that literally walked the subdivision, and talked to all the residents. Well, the ones that would answer their door. And I have literally the data for you, so you

guys can get those questions answered. We have 77 registered voters in our subdivision. We're a small subdivision; I ended up with 82%. You had that question. It was 82% approved. That left 13 homes out of the 77 that did not, I did not get their signatures. And the break, the breakdown for that, was only 10 of those, 10 out of 77 were either against it or I didn't get an answer. So only 10 did not respond. The other ones broke down to one was a divorce situation, therefore I couldn't get that person. They'd already moved on. Already moved on. Six of them were the ones I could not contact. Four were against and the last two were college students, children who had moved away. They were no longer in the state, so I couldn't get them either. So, it broke down to 13 that were not either, not, you know, not a vote of Yes. But we did have only that 10 left out of 77; so, 67 of our residents wanted this, and they were the ones that proactively asked me to do it. We were at our annual meeting this May they said, "We want to become part of Ballwin." That was what came up in our meeting, and they asked me to take care of it. So, I talked to Lynn. She led me through the process. I went around, got all the signatures, and every single person has been nagging me ever since asking, "When are we going to be part of Ballwin?" So hopefully your answer will be "Yes." If you have any questions, feel free to ask them. I'll answer them, but that's where we stand. We really would like to become part of Ballwin.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: So, all right, Commissioners... any questions for Donna?

O'ROURKE: The people who opposed did they express any reasons why?

JIMENEZ: Two of them are sitting over there, if you'd like to ask them. But the main reason I got was they were worried about the taxes. A lot of people worried that it would increase. And I told them exactly what Ballwin just told you. I reiterate the same thing to them. But you know, some people just don't want to go up 2% because we were told clearly it would go from five to seven. And I try to tell them that's probably \$5 you know, but nevertheless, I'm just, they have a fixed budget. Whatever their reasoning is, they just didn't want the increase in tax. That was the feedback I got from the four voters that said an absolute no. I didn't. They didn't refuse to sign for, so that was the response I got.

O'ROURKE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Other discussion from Commissioners. All right, thank you, Donna.

JIMENEZ: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right. Next up, Lieutenant Edward Magee.

MAGEE: Good evening, members of the Boundary Commission. My name is Lieutenant Edward Magee, and I represent the St. Louis County Police Department. I'm currently assigned to the West County precinct. Our precinct currently provides police services to the Arbor Crest Subdivision, as well as the other two areas that are up for annexation at the next meeting. The St. Louis County Police Department remains fully committed to continue our dedicated service to these communities. While we acknowledge that the residents have met the signature requirements for this petition, I must express my concern regarding the potential precedential effect of this approval. Our concern is that the annexation proposal marks the beginning of a piecemeal annexation strategy that will create the substantial operational challenges for the St. Louis County Police Department. We have specific reasons to anticipate this. First is the streets immediately to the south, which would include the Arbors at Bridle Crest and Weymouth Way, as well as the Arbor Glen subdivision across Ries Road are already included in the city of Ballwin's 2024 southern annexation consideration plan. Furthermore, we are already aware that the Shadow Oaks neighborhood, located just across Big Bend Road, is preparing to circulate their own annexation petition to Ballwin. The continued approval of these piecemeal annexations will create a disconnected, unincorporated pocket of St. Louis County, St. Louis County territory. Officers would then be required to navigate through municipal jurisdictions to access these areas. We are also left wondering about the future status of areas like Castlewood Park also listed in Ballwin's plan, and whether such areas will be left isolated and unincorporated enclaves.

We, respectfully, are asking the Boundary Commission to consider these long-term operational and geographical impacts. The Commission has the authority to draw a firm line to prevent the proliferation of these isolated pockets, and we encourage you to

consider the efficiency of police services across the region and prevent an annexation pattern that will only complicate the public safety response for the St. Louis County residents.

I have one more note that I want to mention, because I wasn't aware until tonight about whether who is going to maintain Ries Road leading up to the Arbor Crest subdivision. It would be my opinion that the city of Ballwin should probably maintain that, as they are responsible for Ries Road up through the Cascade Subdivision. So, there's a sign there that says that they're not ...where County... belongs in. And that is also Ries Road is the major roadway to get into Castlewood State Park. So, I think that would be one more thing I want to mention that I didn't learn until just now. So, I appreciate your time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, that's all the public comment registered speakers we have and with that, we stand adjourned. We will reconvene in eight minutes. Thank you.