

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

**TRANSCRIPT OF
BC2502 PLAN OF INTENT PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF BALLWIN SIMPLIFIED BOUNDARY CHANGE:
ANNEXATION OF ARBOR TRAILS SUBDIVISION & OAKBROOK ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

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: 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 legal counsel Mike Hart. At either end of the table, 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 the proposed simplified boundary change annexation, the area assigned file case number BC2502, 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 any question 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 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 and 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 25, 2025, so the decision date is December 25, 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. A 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, and I now, I will now have the commission members introduce themselves and include their residence and their appointing authority. So, we will begin with Steve O'Rourke.

O'ROURKE: I'm Steve O'Rourke, appointed by County Executive in West County.

RIDDICK: George Riddick, appointed by County Executive St. Louis unincorporated.

PLUEMER: Ann Pluemer, unincorporated St Louis County and appointed by County Executive.

ROBINSON: Stephanie Robinson, appointed by the City of Berkeley

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Appointed by the City of Berkeley?

DOUGHERTY: Municipal League,

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Municipal League.

ROBINSON: Municipal League. Okay, small city.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: I am Tom Mooney. I'm appointed by the County Executive as the County appointment for a member in an incorporated area, and I live in Clarkson Valley.

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

SCHNEIDER: Retired Florissant Mayor Tom Schneider, appointed by municipal league for large cities.

UCHITELLE: I'm Ben Uchitelle. Live in Clayton, was appointed by the Municipal League

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, thank you with that. Let's get down to business. City of Ballwin, you're up first.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Yes, since you all reintroduced yourself, I suppose, as well. Eric Sterman, city administrator of the city of Ballwin, Lynn Sprick, city planner, city of Ballwin, and in the back row, Mayor Mark Stallman of Ballwin. We also have representatives from both the Arbor Trails subdivision and Oak Brook elementary school who may speak or will certainly be available to answer questions again.

I will run through this fairly briefly. I did want to just take one brief moment to respond to the gentleman from the County police department... his comments at the last hearing. I just wanted to note that the Boundary Commission rules do not prohibit, or do not permit the creation of unincorporated pockets. So, neither of these proposed annexations, nor would we ever submit one that creates an unincorporated pocket. And again, I know this is subjective, but I just comment that the city of Ballwin has intentionally undertaken very slow annexation process. When you look at, you know, we've done three annexations in the past, maybe five years, one every year or two, relatively combined, five to 600 people. We do that really for the reasons, you know, expressed. We obviously want to be very careful as a city, and that we don't overextend ourselves, that we don't harm the County, that it's done in a way that is measured; that is appropriate; that we can all be sure that the services are provided for the benefit of the residents. So, I would argue, while map plans, as you know, show large swaths on every City's map plan, that's really done per the Boundary Commission's rules that you have to show these areas...

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: I'm going to ask you to stick to BC2502.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Fair enough. Moving on. We've got the proposal here before you at this particular hearing is for the Arbor Trails Subdivision. Arbor was a popular name when these subdivisions were developed, and then the Oak Brook elementary school. So again, this, also before you tonight, is a proposal under the simplified boundary change option that the Boundary Commission rules make available, which requires a petition of 75% of registered voters, which was done and which you should have a copy of. So, this particular proposal, Oak Brook, excuse me, Arbor Trails Subdivision, which is 85 single family homes, that's actually who initiated this proposal. They reached out to us, expressed an interest in annexation, and we indicated to them that in order to meet the County's requirement of 15%, being 15% contiguous to Ballwin, (obviously, by themselves, they are not) it would require also the annexation of Oak Brook elementary school. So, the subdivision and the city reached out to the elementary school, and they indicated that they were receptive to annexation as well. I believe you have a letter in your, with the plan of intent that indicates that. And there is a representative, Mr. Brock, here tonight

from the school, if there are any questions. So, what before, what's before you is a combined proposal for those two developments.

Again, tax base. You kind of heard it all. It is relatively negligible. This subdivision is a little bit larger, so it's a little bit more impactful in terms of the redistribution of sales tax than the previous, Arbor Crest. But still, in the scheme of things, relatively negligible.

We have the legal description, which you have also been provided. So again, you know, when you talk about the creation of logical municipal boundaries, this is around 20% contiguous to the city of Ballwin. It is in an area that is, you know, directly off of Big Bend Road, which we obviously use to access other subdivisions within Ballwin, so it's easily accessible. It is contiguous to the city currently, and so it really shouldn't be difficult to provide services.

Compactness. Again, it's two, two elements of this proposal. The subdivision and the elementary school, which are contiguous to the Cascade subdivision, which is currently in Ballwin and would also be contiguous to the Arbor Crest subdivision, which is the previous proposal you heard tonight.

Again, list of services that are currently provided and who provides them and many of those would be taken over by the city of Ballwin. Obviously, we're very proud of the services we provide. County provides great services, too. Happy to answer any questions on... on any of those if you have any.

Same thing with timing. We would, we would take over provision of services that really at any time that the Commission deems appropriate. We would just ask for, typically, 30 to 60 days to be able to make sure that we could communicate to the neighborhood and have everything adjusted and lined up. So that we could hit the ground running on day one, with again, the exception of trash service, which, by state law, the residents are given the choice whether or not to switch for up to two years. But if they wished to switch sooner on the city's contract, we would afford them that opportunity.

Again, sorry to repeat ourselves, but taxation, again, same personal property and real estate tax rate, the sales tax rate is 1% higher, which, as we've discussed, only truly affects the purchase of a vehicle. And then the utility tax rate would go from 5 to 7%. So, this is revenue. This is on the plan of intent. And here tonight you can see, you know, again, some of that tax that's out of the county pool would come to Ballwin instead of the County. The utility tax as well, but still relatively negligible compared to the size of both of our respective budgets. So, there will be a minimal impact on the tax base for both parties.

Zoning. So, as you can see, the current this area is currently zoned, really in three different ways. The subdivision is zoned under County R-3. But like Arbor Crest, has a planned environmental development overlay. So, it's a development plan that was adopted at the time the homes were built that sort of dictates lot sizes and things. We would transfer that over. Oak Brook is actually two parcels, zoned Non-Urban and County R-4. We would propose actually transferring all of that area to Ballwin's R-3. Again, this is really a formality, in the sense that, because the subdivision was built under planned development and the school is the school, they would really have no impact from zoning. It's just a formality to adopt the nearest applicable Ballwin zoning district.

Again, effective date change would be whatever the Commission is comfortable with. And we are here before you again, seeking to simply, just reflect the desire of the subdivision residents. They have seek or have sought this annexation, and Ballwin is supportive of it. And I believe that is it. So, happy to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Okay, go ahead, Steve,

O'ROURKE: Yeah, I apologize for my ignorance. What's, what is the difference between R-3 and R-4?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): So, I mean, on the County zoning, or in Ballwin zoning?

O'ROURKE: I see Ballwin R-4. And when you when you had...

BALLWIN (STERMAN): So, the subdivision would go from County R-3 to Ballwin R-3. The school, there's piece of the school that would go from County R-4 to...

O'ROURKE: So, what is the difference between Ballwin R-4 and Ballwin R-3?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Yeah, I'll defer to Lynn, she's our planner. But generally speaking, there affords more dense, smaller lot sizes, slightly different setbacks. As you, generally speaking, our R-1 is the largest lot sizes, you know, single family. And as you go down, we have up to R-5. It gets a little bit more dense, a little bit smaller lot sizes. As you get into R-4 R-5 it offers the opportunity for multifamily, again, under certain conditions and setbacks and approvals and such.

O'ROURKE: And so, you're proposing that the school would also be Ballwin R-3. Are there other schools in Ballwin? Are they also similarly zoned?

BALLWIN (SPRICK): There are other schools in Ballwin that have residential zoning. What we tend to do is look at the adjacent properties and also think about, if the school went away, what would we want to see developed there. And what you want to see developed there is what is adjacent. We would do R-3 over R-4 because it's less dense. Does that answer your question?

O'ROURKE: Yes. Thank you.

RIDDICK: I have one more question. So how many residents are in this? I didn't hear you say how many residents there are.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): There are 84 homes. So, it's 85 and how many registered voters do you recall? So, there's about 200 residents.

LAUBER: Do the Parkway Schools have school resource officers?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): You know, Parkway does not, I believe, have school resource officers. And that can be either the district or the County. I don't believe they are provided any school resource offers or officers. Currently, Ballwin has two SROs. One is partnership with Rockwood school district and is dedicated to Selvidge Middle School. The other SRO is paid for by the city of Ballwin and splits time between our elementary schools. And so Oak Brook would be a part of that program as well.

LAUBER: But you're not aware of that. Does the county do resource officers?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): I don't want to speak for them. I'm sure they do. I think some of that depends on the school district and what arrangement they have, but I don't believe they have one in Oak Brook currently.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Other questions from Commissioners?

RIDDICK: I guess my... another question I would have, is residents coming to you to for the annexation? What was the reason they're giving to you guys for that annexation?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Well, I think you can answer that when he speaks. What I can tell you, what we hear, to be honest with you, is primarily either one of two things. It's either a cost-savings, because, again, we pay for street lights, or, you know, we pay for the leaf pickup that sometimes they're having to pay out of pocket for. It just depends on each HOA and how, you know, what fees they might have or what services they might have. And the other, I mean, quite honestly, it's no knock on the police or certain services. But things like snow removal, they tend to see our streets, you know, at a level that they'd like to see in their neighborhood. We also have great park amenities that they get access to, including this facility and the golf course attached to it, pool next door. So, but ultimately, I would defer to Mr. Vassel and the residents of these respective subdivisions.

O'ROURKE: You said you also you had a letter of support from the school. Yes, is that from the principal?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): I believe it's from this. Yeah. We've met with Superintendent, Dr Marty, who has since retired, as well as principal and the assistant principal, who is in the audience tonight, and talked with them about what it would mean for them, and you know, wanted them to be aware of it and decide ultimately. And I don't know if it actually was discussed with the school board or what their process was, but the principal ultimately provided a letter of support.

O'ROURKE: Okay,

LAUBER: Has that been provided?

O'ROURKE: Was it part of our packet?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): It was, it was part of the plan of intent. So, I don't know what you all have

DOUGHERTY: Supporting documents towards that end of the packet.

O'ROURKE: I've been looking through it, and I haven't seen it yet.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Go ahead Tom.

SCHNEIDER: Was the principal speaking on behalf of the school district?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): I would presume the principal spoke with the authorization of the school district. Like so, when we met with them, the superintendent was there as well. So, is that fair to say?

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Other questions?

UCHITELLE: A couple questions. One, but for the school building, school property, joining in this, it wouldn't meet the 15% compatibility requirements.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Correct.

UCHITELLE: So that the subdivision would not be able to go ahead with this annexation without the school district's approval?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Correct.

UCHITELLE: And with respect to that, did the sub... did the School District Board of Education meet and approve this?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): I don't know the answer to that question. Again, we met with the superintendent, the principal, we asked them to go through whatever approval process or consideration that they would do. I can't speak for what that process entailed, but ultimately, the principal issued a letter. Sounds like it didn't make it into the packet, but we have provided it. We can share it again.

SCHNEIDER: Yeah, I would like to hear from, from not just the principal, but somebody from this from the school board...president.

UCHITELLE: Yes.

SCHNEIDER: And maybe have minutes of the school board meeting that where they approve it, not just the principal.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Yeah, I can't speak for them. I don't know what their process is.

UCHITELLE: One more question with respect to your consideration by Ballwin of this proposed annexation, did you take into account or consider or discuss the possibilities raised by

the police officer that this could be a cascading sort of thing that would lead to some isolated subdivisions?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Yeah, as I was, you know, kind of mentioning earlier. I mean, this is why we do these sort of slow and one piece at a time. Because we want to look carefully at how it affects both our ability, the County's ability to respond to provide services. And you know, I think that being 20% contiguous, you know, using roadways that you know the County uses to provide certain subdivisions that we do as well, I don't foresee any at least our police department, from our standpoint, we've looked at it. We don't foresee any issues with Ballwin's ability to provide services. I don't see that. It shouldn't, you know, impair the County's ability to provide services to the unincorporated areas. But obviously, I won't speak for them.

UCHITELLE: Does that mean that you're going to add more police officers to these two annexations if they go forward?

BALLWIN (STERMAN): You know, we look at our staffing levels every year and add as needed. I don't know that in and of itself, adding, you know, about 300 people would warrant the addition of more officers, but we will certainly take that into consideration.

UCHITELLE: Cuts both ways. If you don't add, that means you're thinner with 300 more people, if you do add then you're more taxed.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Yeah, I mean also, like in our street department, for example, in public works, we started contracting out more services to make up for the fact that where we can't hire the staff to provide the same level of service that we historically have, We look at other options as well. So staffing is always a concern.

UCHITELLE: I didn't hear his response.

DOUGHERTY: Hold on, hold on.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): The mic went out.

ALOBARS: So sorry.

DOUGHERTY: The mic went out. We're getting it fixed. Okay, Ben.

ALOBARS: You're okay.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): Am I back in business? Yeah. So, anyway, the question you know regarding staffing, that's something at this time we think we can provide for this area with our

existing staffing, but certainly if we need to add staff to provide that level of service the community, we will, we will do so.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Ben, any other questions? We're doing walkie talkie.

UCHITELLE: No further questions by me.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Any other questions from the commissioners? Okay, St Louis County, you're on.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (HENSLEY): Okay, cool. All right, I'm back again. Y'all are gonna hear it all over again. So, bear with me for the record.

Good evening, commission members. Good evening, people of the public. My name is Joel Hensley, principal planner for long range planning with St. Louis County tonight. We're talking about BC2502 Ballwin, Arbor Trails annexation request. This primary change request has been verified by county staff to adhere to the standards set forth by state legislation RSMo, 72.405 which requires that a verified petition for annexation be signed by 75% of registered voters, which in within the proposed area, the primary use is residential in nature, with an average residential density of not less than one dwelling per three acres. If approved tonight by...if approved by this Commission, the boundary change will not require 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 interests of the municipality proposing the annexation city of Ballwin; that the proposed area for annexation is currently part of unincorporated St Louis County; that areas of the county adjacent to the proposed boundary will not have an adverse effect. When reviewing this proposal, the Commissioners... Commissioners need to consider 11 factors as part of their consideration for approval, as listed here. For this proposal, staff has put these considerations into the following categories, geography, financial service, provisions and zoning and land use.

So, let's start with geography. Put St. Louis County into context the proposed area and the new boundaries. So, St. Louis County as a whole, current population about 979,000 people. We provide local services to all residents that currently reside within unincorporated areas of the County. We also provide contract services with over 90% of municipalities within St. Louis

County. The County philosophy is to provide the highest level of professional staff with our best level of service provided. We maintain multiple points of contact throughout the County, including a 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 council district seven. The proposed annexation is Arbor Trails subdivision, which consists of 85 housing units with an estimated population of 249 residents and Oak Brook elementary. The area in question is about 49 acres and has an assessed evaluation of \$10 million dollars. As part of the geographic review of this application, staff reviewed the request based on the legal description of the proposed area, its compactness and logical, reasonable creation of municipal boundaries per state statute. Any potential annexation by local municipality requires a minimum of 15% continuity between the proposed area of annexation and the proposed community that will be annexed. This subdivision, based on our review, has about 20% boundary continuity between the municipality in this proposed area. Additionally, a legal description provided by the city of Ballwin meets compliance and is deemed appropriate by staff.

Now we'll talk about zoning and land use. Currently, Arbor Trails subdivision is zoning designation of R-3, and its primary use is residential. Additionally, the subdivision will be annexed along with Oak Brook Elementary, which will have a continuity of the... of zoning, which will be residential, which is standard in zoning. So. So if annexed, the zoning will change to R-3. We've already talked about, which will maintain the residential character of the subdivision, and additionally, this will expand into the school site, which I just hit on.

So now we'll move into the financial aspects to consider. As part of the annexation review process, staff reviews the proposal to understand the potential impact of the tax base and revenue, current tax rates, sources of revenue, and other property tax considerations, to make sure there's no extraordinary effect on the distribution of tax resources for St Louis County. From the rate book 2024, we can tell that this annexation will not cause any increase in residential real estate tax, commercial real estate tax. However, the city of Ballwin does have a 1% sales tax on food items and can impact certain purchases, such as vehicles. Here's an example of a

breakdown of additional tax an individual might have to pay if they purchased a new vehicle, used or new vehicle on the open market.

So now we'll talk about service provisions, and I'll give you some background on the services that we provide at St. Louis County. Currently, the County provides police services in the proposed area, which we have the highest capacity throughout the county, and we maintain three CALEA accreditations. The County is currently providing some permitting services to Ballwin, and we will continue partnering with them. The County provides snow removal services, even on our residential streets. The County provides street maintenance, and all roads are subject to a pavement condition rating index. Currently, this subdivision has a rating of six or higher on all their streets. St. Louis County has amazing parks, which are many, to all the County residents and people outside of our County. Currently accounting for over 12,000 acres for everyone to enjoy. The County also provides animal control and pet adoption services. As I said, please spay and neuter your pets. The County provides affordable waste management services, which will continue. And then, as stated before, with this annexation, there will be a change in sewer lateral line repairs where the County has no cap in coverage in repair, where the city of Ballwin, and based on our research, will only cover up to \$4,500.

In summary, the County provides high quality services to unincorporated residents for a low cost. The County is especially proud of the quality of our police service and other services. The County will submit to the Commission a written report with our analysis within 21 days of a timeline. So again, name is Joel Hensley. Thank you for bearing with me, and I am available for questions.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, commissioners, any questions for Joe?

RIDDICK: Can you remind me of the police department, the accreditation that they have again?

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (HENSLEY): What? Yeah, let me roll back to that is, and our police representative will be coming up to comment again, and he can give you more details on that. That is, C, A, L, E, A.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Cool. Any other questions?

UCHITELLE: Great. At this point, what is the county's position with respect to this proposed annexation?

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (HENSLEY): So, at this point, based on your initial review, there was no issues that we foresaw. But we will provide an official report with more details to come as we have presented additional facts this evening. But at this time, we don't have any issues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Any other discussion? All right, move on to public comment. Thank you. All right. First up. Carl, help me with your last name. Carl, Vasel, got it. Thank you. Carl, you have five minutes from the time to start talking.

VASEL: All right. Well, thank you. My name is Carl Vasel. And I live in the Arbor Trails subdivision. I really just signed up so that I could answer your questions and into the reference to the question earlier. How we did this petition is: we run around to all 85 homes, door to door, and talk to each resident about our desire to join Ballwin. This was very warmly received by all the residents. Well, we have over 85% of the registered voter signatures, and the biggest point that they brought out was they wanted to have a sense of belonging to the community of Ballwin. For many of us, when we purchased our homes, we wrongly assumed we were already in the city of Ballwin. A lot of the confusion around the mailing addresses, but those with young families were really eager to become residents so that they could enjoy the residential rates for all the activities for the children at the north point, the ball one point, and everything else that Ballwin has to offer, that was the driving factor. And as Eric mentioned, there are some cost savings. The HOA is going to save money because Ballwin pays for the street lights, and that right now is coming out of the pockets of all the homeowners. So, when they talked about, yes, there's some additional sales tax. Well, we all shop in Ballwin already, so that's kind of a wash. But a sales tax on a vehicle, well, we're going to save that money on what we're, the HOA, is already paying into for utilities, for the electric and the street lights. And the additional 2% on our utility tax, you know, people did do the math, and they said, "Okay, well, this is going to cost me just a small amount every year." It's really, I feel, you know, they're getting more back from the city of Ballwin for that cost increase. So, the few that chose not to sign it, basically it was they, they didn't have young kids to participate in the Ballwin activities, and they didn't want to pay the extra

2%. So, that was really the driving force. But again, we had 85% or greater of the registered voters wanted to do this. And some of the registered voters were college kids who were out of town, and we couldn't get their signatures. We have quite a few of those too. So anyway, that's it. I'm here to answer questions.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, thank you, Carl. Did it okay? Next up, Lieutenant Edward McGee,

MAGEE: Good evening. My name is Lieutenant Edward McGee. I'm with the St. Louis County Police Department. And I'm assigned to the West County precinct. Before I get to my statement, which I've already read, I do want to address two questions that were asked earlier, as far as the school resource officer goes, Parkway pays for... I have four school resource officers, one of which is assigned to the Parkway School District. And he is assigned to Parkway South Middle School. He also handles four elementary schools as needed. So, if a call for service comes out, which is very rare at Oak Brook Elementary, a beat officer would then be assigned, and then that SRO would go there. Parkway also has school safety officers that are mostly assigned to patrolling the elementary schools. If Parkway School District wanted police officers in all their elementary schools, and they would, they would go for the contract, and they would pay for it. But their decisions are not.

As far as our accreditation goes. The International Association of Police Chiefs has a commission called the CALEA commission. It's that's the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. I've been a policeman for the St. Louis County Police Department for 25 years. We've been accredited for way longer than that. We also have the Tri ARC Award, which means that we are accredited both with the police department, our dispatch center, as well as our police academy. And our crime lab has their own accreditation that they also have. So, I hope that answers the questions for that. There are other methods of accreditation. You can also get one through the state. I'm sorry I don't remember which Ballwin has.

BALLWIN (STERMAN): It is CALEA.

MAGEE: Yes, but a lot of agencies are so that works good, because we're all familiar with each other's policies.

So, I'll get to my statement. My name is Lieutenant Albert McGee. I represent the St. Louis County Police Department, the West County precinct. Our precinct currently provides police services to the Arbor Trails as well as Oak Brook Elementary School. St. Louis County Police Department remains fully committed to continuing our dedicated service to these communities, while we acknowledge that the residents have met the signature requirement for this petition, I must express our significant concerns 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 substantial operational challenges for the County police department. We have specific reasons to anticipate this.

This again, the Arbors at Bridlecrest, Weymouth Way and the Arbor Land subdivision nearby are also included in the annexation consideration plan that Ballwin put forward in 2024. And furthermore, we're already aware of that the Shadow Oaks neighborhood located just across the street from Arbor Trails of Big Bend is preparing to circulate its own annexation petition to Ballwin. The continued approval of these piecemeal annexations would create a disconnected, unincorporated pocket of St Louis County territory, and our officers would then be required to navigate through municipal jurisdictions to access these areas.

We're often, we're also left wondering about the future status of areas like the Castlewood State Park, and whether such areas would be left isolated, unincorporated enclaves. We respectfully are asking the Boundary Commission to consider these long-term operational geographical impacts. The Commission has the authority to draw a firm line to prevent the proliferation of these isolated pockets. We encourage you to consider the efficiency of police services across the region to prevent an annexation pattern that will only complicate the public safety response of the St. Louis County residents. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, that's all the public comment we have registered.

DOUGHERTY: Ben had a question, I believe, for the police officer, Lt Magee.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Okay.

DOUGHERTY: Lt. Magee, Ben has a question.

UCHITELLE: Yes, I have a question. I take it from your rather strong, firm statement that you disagree. Correct me if I'm wrong with the implicit approval by the St. Louis County official of this annexation and the prior one,

MAGEE: Yes.

UCHITELLE: So, the St. Louis County Police Department disapproves of these annexations. We're still yet to hear definitively from St. Louis County on the subject.

MAGEE: Yes, sir.

UCHITELLE: They seem to be leaning in favor. Is that correct?

MAGEE: That's my impression, sir.

UCHITELLE: And you disapprove of them, primarily because you can turn... that this might be the start of a cascade of more annexations, which will lead to isolated pockets for the County to police?

MAGEE: Yes, sir, that is our concern.

UCHITELLE: Thank you.

MAGEE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: That it, Ben?

UCHITELLE: Yes, it is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: Good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOONEY: All right, we stand adjourned.