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County Administration

P.O. Box 1989
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-1989
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FAX: (561) 355-3982
www.co.palm-beach.fl.us



**Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners**

- Warren H. Newell, Chairman
- Carol A. Roberts, Vice Chair
- Karen T. Marcus
- Mary McCarty
- Burt Aaronson
- Tony Masilotti
- Addie L. Greene

County Administrator

Robert Weisman

"An Equal Opportunity
Affirmative Action Employer"

March 5, 2001

Federal Communications Commission
Attn: Ms. Magalie Salas
445 12th Street SW, Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Comments in Support of Florida Public Service Commission
Petition

Dear Chairman:

The Board of County Commissioners, representing the citizens of Palm Beach County Florida, has been advised that the Florida Public Service Commission's (PSC) recommendation for proposed numbering plan relief for the 561 area code (DA No. 01-341/Dkt No 96-98) has been scheduled for a hearing and decision by the Commission in the near future. As the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, I ask that you take into consideration our comments and weigh heavily the wishes of the citizens of the affected counties as you arrive at your decision.

From the initial notification by the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) that the 561 area code was in danger of exhausting its available supply of phone numbers, the citizens and elected officials have spoken with one voice and the words were clear.....no ten digit dialing. Their overwhelming desire to not adopt ten digit dialing resulted in the Board of County Commissioners passing a resolution on 21 September 1999 to retain the 561 area code in Palm Beach County. At customer hearings within Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties held in March of last year, every citizen spoke to the desire to not adopt ten digit dialing including those that have lived through three area code changes already and didn't want to have to go through it again and those that were concerned about the confusion of having

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multiple area codes assigned within the same office. At a Special Hearing requested by State Senator Ron Klein with the PSC staff, (held before the PSC meeting to vote on this matter) citizens, business groups, elected officials from various municipalities, three of the four counties, and local State Representatives unanimously supported the geographical split of the 561 area code. It was further agreed that the 561 area code should be retained within Palm Beach County and a new area code be assigned to Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties.

While it is true this position does not meet all the area code relief plan selection criteria, it does provide the immediate relief called for by NANPA and more importantly, provides the citizens of the affected counties with the solution they desire to a very serious problem. We go into this, with the full understanding that this issue might need to be addressed again in the future, especially if the number conservation measures to be implemented are not as effective as planned. At that time, we would still look to avoid ten digit dialing through the geographic split of the area code along current or amended Intra-LATA boundaries.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Newell".

Warren H. Newell, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Commerce and Economic Opportunities,
Vice Chairman
Education
Health, Aging and Long-Term Care
Reapportionment - Subcommittee on Congressional
Apportionment and Redistricting
Regulated Industries

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

SENATOR RON KLEIN
28th District

February 13, 2001

Dear Interested Parties:

I write to you today to update you on the status of possible ten-digit "overlay" dialing in Palm Beach County. As you may be aware, in a meeting on September 27th with the Public Service Commission ("PSC") staff in West Palm Beach, representatives from our 561 area code region, and the Treasure Coast expressed overwhelming opposition to the PSC's ten-digit dialing recommendation. Subsequent to that meeting the PSC sided with our request to allow Palm Beach County to keep its 561 area code and asked for a new area code to be provided for the Treasure Coast. Unfortunately, the federal contractor who assigns area codes turned down the state's request citing a federal regulation that violated industry-developed guidelines that require the codes to last at least five years. This matter will now be decided by the Federal Communications Commission.

It is our belief that the state plan which was approved by the PSC which extends the 561 area code life a minimum of three years is the best alternative. We believe that with the addition of new technology and the implementation of number conservation measures the 561 area code would have a much longer than projected life span. Additionally, though this plan Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties would enjoy a new area code with relief spanning 24 years into the future.

We believe that the four counties impacted by this proposed change support our position as communicated above. This position accomplishes everything that the local governments, business community, and the general public have expressed in resolutions, letters to the PSC, and public forums. We feel comfortable that the residents of Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast would be accommodated with the adoption of a plan that creates a new area code for the Treasure Coast, preserves the 561 area code for Palm Beach County, and eliminates the need for 10-digit dialing.

I encourage you to immediately write the FCC who will be ruling on this issue in the near future and urge them to keep the 561 area code solely for the residents of Palm Beach County. When you write the commission you will must specify at the beginning of your letter that you are writing regarding "DA No. 01-341"/Dkt No 96-98". Your comments may be addressed to:

Federal Communications Commission
Attn: Ms. Magalie Salas
445 12th Street SW, Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554
Re: Comments in Support of Florida Public Commission Petition

I look forward to working with you in our continuing collaborative effort to publicize this issue and to reaching a successful result. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact my office.

Very truly yours,
Ron Klein
Ron Klein
State Senator
District 28

REPLY TO:
□ 3333 South Congress Avenue, Suite 305 A, Delray Beach, Florida 33445 (561) 274-4777
□ 404 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-6091

Legislature's Website: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>

JOHN M. MCKAY
President

GINNY BROWN-WAITE
President Pro Tempore

FAYE W. BLANTON
Secretary

DONALD BEVERANCE
Sergeant at Arms

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C O V E R

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FAX

S H E E T

✓
To: Mr. Robert Zelanzy, Director of Communications
Fax #: 561-233-4439
Subject: 10 Digit Overlay Dialing in Palm Beach County
Date: February 13, 2001
Pages: 2, including this cover page

Dear Robert:

I wanted to share this memo with you from Senator Klein. Please pass this information along to other interested parties so we may try to persuade the Federal Communications Commission to adopt our position on this matter.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brandon Biederman

From the desk of...

Brandon Biederman
Legislative Aide
Office of Senator Ron Klein
3333 South Congress Ave. Suite 305A
Delray Beach, FL 33445

(561) 274-4777
Fax: (561) 279-1990

Encl. 1

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE RETENTION OF THE 561 AREA CODE IN PALM BEACH COUNTY.

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WHEREAS, the 561 area code is nearing capacity and the region is on the verge of being dissected; and

WHEREAS, there is precedent for the Public Service Commission to retain the area code in the largest affected area, which is Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, by restricting the 561 area code to Palm Beach County, the capacity limitations and the possible implementation of 10-digit dialing can be delayed; and

WHEREAS, the affected areas of Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties will most likely be able to retain a new area code for a much longer period of time because they are slower growth areas; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County believes a majority of County residents would choose to avoid the expense and disruption of changing the 561 area code until capacity in Palm Beach County alone is met at some point in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission will be conducting public hearings tentatively scheduled for March 23, 2000 in Boca Raton and March 24, 2000 in West Palm Beach to address this issue and the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County hereby requests the Florida Public Service Commission to retain the 561 area code for all of Palm Beach County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

1. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners hereby requests the Florida Public Service Commission to retain the 561 area code for the residents of Palm Beach County.
2. The Public Affairs Department is directed to forward this Resolution to the Florida Public Service Commission and the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation.
3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Aaronson, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roberts, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

COMM. MAUDE FORD LEE	___	Aye
COMM. WARREN H. NEWELL	___	Aye
COMM. BURT AARONSON	___	Aye
COMM. MARY McCARTY	___	Absent
COMM. KAREN T. MARCUS	___	Absent
COMM. TONY MASLOTTI	___	Absent
COMM. CAROL A. ROBERTS	___	Aye

The Chair thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 21 day of September, 1999.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DOROTHY H. WILKEN, CLERK

By: [Signature]
Assistant County Attorney

By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

