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Ex 1 /

Good evening, my name is Randy Rhoads and I am a member of the L.S.C.C. Joining me this evening is my fellow District 2 Councilmember Ron Williams. L.S. Mayor Messerli is unable to attend this public hearing tonight, so I am making comments on her behalf.

The City of Lee's Summit has a population of approximately 86,000 residents located within the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Currently, a group of residents must pay additional charges to call other residents of the City and to call <sup>for services</sup> City Hall. We are here to encourage modifications to the Metropolitan Calling Area plan to provide that all residents of Lee's Summit are treated equally through uniformity in rates for calls made within the City limits.

\*\*\*Telephone exchanges within the Kansas City Metropolitan area are currently divided by the Public Service Commission into 5 tiers. The closest 3 tiers as they radiate from the center of Kansas City are known as the Principal Zone, MCA-1 and MCA-2. Those 3 tiers constitute the "mandatory" MCA calling area. The furthest 3 tiers from the center of Kansas City are known as MCA-3, MCA-4, and MCA-5. Those 3 tiers constitute the "optional" MCA calling area.

**FILED**<sup>4</sup>

NOV - 9 2005

*Greenwood*  
Public Hearing Exhibit No. 1

Date 10-11-05 Case No. TD-2005-0144

Reporter Cross Reporting

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\*\*\*Callers within the mandatory calling area may place calls to others within the mandatory area at no additional charge. However, callers within the optional calling area may call only those within their own local exchange unless they have subscribed to an "MCA Plan" for an additional fee.

Over 7,000 residents of southern Lee's Summit reside within the MCA-3 area, designated as the "Greenwood Telephone Exchange". Those residents must either subscribe to an MCA service by paying an additional fee of approximately \$12.~~00~~<sup>35</sup> per month, or must incur long distance charges, to call residents of Lee's Summit not within MCA-3. This means that residents within the Greenwood Exchange must incur additional fees to contact providers of goods and services within the community in which they reside, including those services provided by the City of Lee's Summit and its elected and appointed officials.

For years, residents of Lee's Summit residing within the Greenwood Telephone Exchange have requested the City's assistance in obtaining information regarding the procedure to change the boundaries of the Metropolitan Calling Areas. On January 18, 2001, the Public Service Commission established Case No. TO-2001-391 and issued an order directing the staff of the

Public Service Commission to establish a task force made-up of Public Service Commission staff, telephone companies, and the Office of Public Counsel, to investigate the effects on pricing which would result from expanding the mandatory MCA calling area. In the process of carrying out its duties, the Public Service Commission staff on the task force recommended that the Public Service Commission schedule public hearings to gauge demand for an expanded mandatory calling area. The task force submitted its final report on January 24, 2002. However, there was disagreement as to whether the task force had adequately addressed certain matters and whether additional task force meetings were necessary.

On March 7, 2002, the City of Lee's Summit passed Resolution No. 02-04 declaring its support for the Public Service Commission staff recommendation that the Public Service Commission schedule public hearings and that the Public Service Commission hold at least one of the public hearings in the City of Lee's Summit. On March 18, 2004, the Commission created a new case (Case No. TW-2004-0471) and entered an order establishing a working group. The purpose of the new 2004 case was to address the Commission's concern that the task force's final report in the original 2001 case (Case No. TO-2001-391) left several important

questions unanswered. One of those unanswered questions was whether or not there was consumer support for a geographically expanded mandatory calling area. Also, the working group was to investigate the pricing and costing issues associated with proposed revisions to the current MCA.

The stated purpose of the working group was to facilitate the <sup>open</sup> free exchange of ideas between the Commission, the public, and the industry. The working group was directed to investigate and consider whether the MCA plan, and calling scopes in general, should be amended, and if so, how. In 2005, a third separate case was established before the Public Service Commission for the Greenwood Exchange and these public hearings were scheduled to help facilitate the investigation into modification to the MCA plan.

We thank the Office of Public Counsel for its efforts in getting these public hearings scheduled and the Public Service Commission staff for recognizing the importance of the hearings. We also thank State Representative Robert Johnson for his contribution to the working group as well as his hard work in getting these public hearings scheduled. As you can see, there are numerous residents here tonight to provide testimony regarding this issue. As representatives of District 2 on the L.S. City

Council, our interest in this proceeding is to insure that all citizens are treated equally through uniformity in rates for calls made within the Lee's Summit City limits. This is important for purposes of uniformity in providing goods and services to residents of the community and to foster an open stream of communication between residents and elected and appointed officials and City employees. We respectfully request that the Public Service Commission consider expanding the mandatory calling area to include all areas within the City of Lee's Summit.