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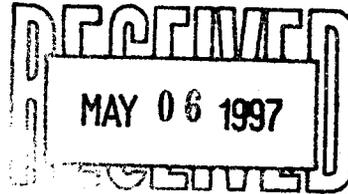
SHERIFF



JOSEPH M. ARPAIO  
SHERIFF

April 21, 1997

Commissioner Renz Jennings  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

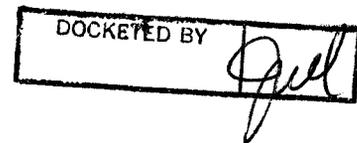


A.C.C. DOCKET CONTROL  
RECEIVED

MAY 20 1997

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED

MAY 20 1997



Dear Commissioner Jennings:

DOCUMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO  
REVIEW BEFORE ACCEPTANCE  
AS A DOCKETED ITEM.

A major decision will be made in the near future by the Arizona Corporation Commission that will impact the residents of Maricopa County for the rest of their lives. As you know, prefixes in the 602 area code will be exhausted by 1999 and a relief plan for implementing a new area code is underway. There are two options being considered and they vary dramatically in how they will affect the citizens and government operations. The two options are a split of the existing 602 area code with a new area code introduced or an overlay of a new area code over the existing 602 area code. Listed below are the advantages of an overlay approach instead of the split method.

- \* The overlay method will better serve the citizens of Maricopa County and our operation in providing public safety services.
- \* There would be no mandatory number changes.
- \* There are no natural boundaries, so specific area codes are not important.
- \* This is a permanent solution. Even if a split is done now, by the year 2003 another area code will be needed and all parties involved in discussions have agreed that an overlay in 2003 would be the best solution. So let's do an overlay now as well.
- \* Ten-digit dialing is inevitable, just whether we do it now or in the future. It will be less confusing to the public if all local dialing becomes ten-digit. Citizens already know the seven-digit numbers they frequently call so memorizing three additional digits is insignificant.
- \* Many prefixes are not maxed out and some users will move, so there will still be numbers left in the 602 area code for some time. These numbers will be issued first.



Commissioner Jennings

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- \* Few people think of their prefix as a location identifier. The area code would be three more numbers added to the phone number, with no particular significance.
- \* This permits businesses or government agencies to move to the new area code to meet their future growth requirements, while maintaining their existing seven digit numbers. Only the new area code will have to be added. Otherwise, they would have a combination of 602 and the new area code numbers within their business. A split area code for a government agency would be counterproductive in serving the citizens. This definitely will affect the Sheriff's Office since we have been trying to obtain four hundred additional numbers in the 256 prefix for the past two years to meet our 5-year growth plan. There are no hundred blocks available so we prefer to move into the new area code with our existing dial plan.
- \* This method provides for future telephone number portability throughout the metro area whereas the split provides for within a specific area code only.
- \* This method is easier and more economical to implement while simplifying future changes that will become necessary around year 2007 instead of 2003 with the split method.

Reprogramming of numerous industry providers equipment will not be necessary.

Supporters of the split method cite customer surveys from other states facing this same issue which has indicated customer preference for the "split method" because of familiarity. I do not believe any follow up surveys have been conducted since these states completed the split to verify the customers are happy with the split.

I hope that you will vote for the overlay method since it will be the least confusing for the public and is the most economical method for everyone involved. Please do not hesitate to call me if you want to further discuss this issue.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Arpaio  
Maricopa County Sheriff

JMA:do