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Page 1
 1
     STATE OF INDIANA
                                  )
                                    SS:
 2
     COUNTY OF MONROE
 3
             IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONROE COUNTY
 4
                 CAUSE NO. 53C06-2203-PL-000509
 5
     COUNTY RESIDENTS AGAINST ANNEXATION, )
 6
     INC., an Indiana not for profit
 7
     corporation, et al.
 8
 9
     Remonstrators/Appellants/Petitioners,)
10
                  -vs-
     THE COMMON COUNCIL of the City of
11
     Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana,
12
     et al.
13
              Respondents.
14
15
                   DEPOSITION OF HARRY FERRIS
16
17
           The deposition upon oral examination of HARRY
      FERRIS, a witness produced and sworn before me,
18
      Colleen Brady, Notary Public in and for the County
      of Monroe, State of Indiana, taken on behalf of the
19
      Respondents, at the offices of Bloomington City
      Hall, 401 North Morton Street, Room 225,
20
      Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, on the
      27th day of February 2024, at 1:41 p.m., pursuant
21
      to the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure with
      written notice as to time and place thereof.
2.2
23
2.4
2.5
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Page 2	Page 4
1 APPEARANCES	1 (Time noted: 1:41 p.m.)
2 FOR THE PETITIONERS:	2 HARRY FERRIS,
3 William J. Beggs	3 having been duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole
BUNGER & ROBERTSON 4 211 South College Avenue	
Bloomington, IN 47404	4 truth, and nothing but the truth relating to said
5 812.332.9295	5 matter, was examined and testified as follows:
wjbeggs@lawbr.com	6
6 7	7 DIRECT EXAMINATION,
FOR THE RESPONDENTS:	8 QUESTIONS BY ANDREW M. MCNEIL:
8	9 Q Could you state your name for the record please?
Andrew M. McNeil	10 A Harry full legal name; right? Harry E.
9 BOSE MCKINNEY & EVANS LLP	11 Ferris Jr. I just go by Harry Ferris. Father
111 Monument Circle 10 Suite 2700	12 is passed away. Some attorney told me I could
Indianapolis, IN 46204	13 drop the Jr.
11 317.684.5000	14 Q Well, Harry, my name Andrew McNeil. I'm one of
amcneil@boselaw.com	15 the attorneys for is the City of Bloomington in
12 13	16 this annexation remonstrance case. Have you
14	-
15 ALSO PRESENT:	17 ever been through a deposition before?
16 Margaret Clements	18 A Yes.
17 18	19 Q When most recently?
19	20 A Probably been 25, 30 years. I worked for big
20	21 trucking companies. We were always suffering
21	22 litigation.
22 23	23 Q Well, the process hasn't changed. Maybe the
24	24 technology has. So you understand, your role
25	25 here is to answer my questions as completely and
Page 3	Page 5
1 INDEX OF EXAMINATION	1 truthfully as you can; right?
2 Page	2 A Yes.
3 DIRECT EXAMINATION	3 Q If you don't understand my question, will you
4	4 let me know?
5	5 A I'll ask for clarification.
6 INDEX OF EXHIBITS	6 Q If you need me to rephrase it, just speak up,
7 Page	7 let me know.
Previously Marked Exhibits:	8 A Right.
8	9 Q And if you answer it, I will assume you
Exhibit 28 - Amended and Supplemented 34 9 Answers of County Residents	10 understood it. Is that fair?
Against Annexation Inc. to City	
10 of Bloomington's	11 A Fair.
Interrogatories	12 Q We're trying to get you out in about 45 minutes.
11	13 A All right.
12	14 Q But even so, if you need to take a break for any
13	reason, will you let me know that?
14	16 A Sure. Certainly.
15 16	17 Q What is your address?
17	18 A 4132 West Broadway Avenue, Bloomington. 47404.
18	19 Q Is that in Annexation Area 1A?
19	20 A Yes.
20	21 Q Does anyone else live at that West Broadway
21	22 address with you?
I .	
22	23 A No. When this all started my wife is
23	23 A No. When this all started my wife is
	 23 A No. When this all started my wife is 24 deceased. I lost my wife two years ago. So, 25 yes, she was living there with me.

2 (Pages 2 - 5)

Page 6	Page 8
1 Q Not currently	1 Q If you could ballpark?
2 A Currently, I'm solo.	2 A Kroger. I buy my gas at Kroger. Shop at
3 Q I'm sorry for your loss.	3 Kroger. They call it Highland Village, which is
4 A Thank you.	4 on the west side, but it's in the city. I use
5 Q Did you or your wife at the time sign a	5 the Planet Fitness on West 3rd Street in
6 remonstrance petition opposing the annexation?	6 Whitehall Plaza. From time to time, I shop at
7 A I believe only one signature per property. So	7 Menander. I believe that's in the city. Shop
8 my signature.	8 at Walmart, but that's county.
9 Q You signed it?	9 Q Do you ever go to the city parks for any reason?
10 A Yes.	10 A No, but when I I lived in the city for 17
11 Q How long have you owned the 4132 West Broadway	11 years. So I did go to parks and park functions
12 property?	12 and I had younger children.
13 A Since October of 2013. Maybe the end of	13 Q When you lived in the city, where did you live?
14 September. Somewhere in there. So 10 plus	14 A Paddington Court, which is down off of Allendale
15 years.	in Sherwood Oaks. There's a Sherwood Oaks and a
16 Q Do you own any other property in either Area 1A	16 Sherwood Oaks II.
17 or 1B?	17 Q You were in Sherwood Oaks?
18 A No, I do not.	18 A Sherwood Oaks. My back fence line was the
19 Q Do you have any plans to move?	for a while, was the boundary between the city
20 A No, I do not, currently. I just	and the county. I woke up one morning, read in
21 Q Sure.	21 the paper that they had been annexed. That was
22 A Not trying to be difficult.	during mayor Fernandez's term. So I asked my
23 Q No, I appreciate that. Do you work currently?	23 neighbor and he wasn't aware that he got annexed
24 A Yes.	24 by the city.
25 Q Where did you work?	25 Q Do you attend any other events within the city
Page 7	Page 9
1 A Bloomington Transit.	1 or any events at Indiana University sporting 2 events or other performances?
2 Q And how long have you worked there?	3 A No, I use state property, but I have attended
3 A Ten years.4 Q To get from Bloomington Transit from your home,	4 one football game in the last probably last
5 what route do you take?	5 20 years. No basketball games. And I have
6 A Basically Broadway to Western Avenue to 3rd	6 attended the opera at the Musical Arts Center
7 Street to Patterson, to Grimes.	7 once last fall.
8 Q What do you do for Bloomington Transit?	8 Q So if you were thinking the about your home on
9 A Bus operator. Part time.	9 West Broadway, if you were to call the fire
10 Q Do you have any other employment?	department you had a kitchen fire or
11 A None.	something what's your understanding of which
12 Q If you work part time, do you have a regular set	service provider would be the primary responder?
13 schedule from week to week?	13 A Primary responder would be Ellettsville 'cause
14 A Yes.	14 fire department is under contract to our
15 Q What is your schedule?	15 township, and it's approximately a long mile,
16 A Basically, 7:05 a.m. to 12:30 Monday, Tuesday,	less than 2 miles away just off of Curry.
17 Thursday, Friday. I have Wednesday off. Again,	17 And I'm glad you brought that up because
18 part time. Approximately, 22 hours and a	when the city had an orientation for annexation
19 fraction. I just round it down to 22 hours.	downstairs, I attended that. And one of my
20 Q Other than working at Bloomington Transit, do	20 questions was going to be to the fire
21 you do anything else within the city limits?	21 department. They had a booth, the police
22 Like, do you get do you go shopping, get	department. They had a booth, the police department had a booth, and I wanted to ask what
23 groceries, eat at restaurants within city	their response time would be. Now they
24 limits?	published in the paper that it would be seven
25 A On occasion. Do you need specifics?	25 minutes, but if you've ever sat at West 3rd at
25 11 Sil occusion. Do you need specifics:	25 Inflates, out if you to ever out at these sid at

3 (Pages 6 - 9)

Page 10 Page 12 1 peek traffic time, they can't get from down 1 that they're not responding to any -- or pulling 2 there -- now their closest -- the city's closest 2 over people for traffic violations, that they're 3 3 station is on Franklin, over there by McDonald's undermanned and understaffed; which my 4 4 and Interstate 96. I sit and watch the fire understanding, they're budgeted for 105 officers 5 5 trucks can't get through the traffic. They're and they only have 85. So I have to question 6 just sitting on their horns. So, again, and 6 why they can't hire and retain people. 7 7 I -- my neighbors have called the fire The current police chief, who was 8 8 department. And Ellettsville responds within renominated or appointed by the new current 9 three to five minutes. City says their response mayor, repointed him. But I'm going back -- I'm guesstimating -- five, six years, city council 10 time is would be seven. I place it closer --10 11 and trying to be fair -- 11 minutes for them to 11 appropriated \$225,000 for the city to fix the 12 respond across the interstate because of 12 roof on the current police station. Instead of 13 traffic. 13 doing that, the police chief went and bought an 14 14 Q Do you know what rating the Bloomington fire armored car that created all kinds of public department has? 15 15 uproar. So I feel the city is mismanaged. And 16 A Last I -- I'm glad you brought that up 'cause 16 the fire department, everything I hear and read 17 again -- well, the night they had orientation, I 17 in the papers and listen to on the media, is 18 stopped at the booth for fire department and the 18 understaffed. So both police and fire 19 19 police, and they had parks and rec there and a department are understaffed. 20 20 few other departments. They were talking about From my experience and living in the city 21 21 to people. So I went around the corner for 17 years, my taxes went up every two years 22 downstairs and talked to the people about my 22 and my services went down every two years. They 23 taxes. And they were estimating what the 23 went from free garbage collection to paid 24 24 increase on my taxes would be at that time. garbage collection. They went from putting anything at the curb -- that you put at the curb 25 Approximately 6:15, I came back and the police 25 Page 13 1 and fire department personnel had all abandoned 1 would be picked up to limitations that anything 2 2 their booth. They were supposed to be there other than two cans, which you had to buy 3 till 8:00. 3 stickers -- pay stickers to have pay for. 4 4 So that was my intend questions to them is We had to pay for -- so we went from free 5 fire department response time and police 5 garbage service to pay garbage service to 6 6 department response time. Now I know for a fact limitations on how much we could put to the 7 7 that the police do not have their -- to my best curb, and any special pickups, we had to pay 8 8 observations, are not -- are only responding to extra for. When I moved into the property in 9 911 calls. Working for the bus company, I've 9 1996, we had free vacuum of leaves on a weekly 10 sat down at the Transit Center at 3rd and 10 basis. 11 Walnut, which is just a block west of the police 11 O Who provided that service? 12 station at Lincoln and 3rd Street, and they 12 A The city. And they went from weekly to monthly 13 all -- the police officers, due to their 13 to once a year to total elimination of leaf 14 14 decreased numbers, cannot -- they sit at the collection. 15 police station and wait for a call and then four 15 So currently I drive a bus for City of 16 16 or five vehicles come running out either 3rd and Bloomington. The city streets aren't 17 Walnut or down the ally behind the bus station 17 maintained. All the city manhole covers are 18 to respond to a call. So they are staged at the 18 uneven. And there's potholes all over the city. Now sometimes we can go through our dispatcher 19 police station. 19 20 Q You mean in contrast, they are not out on 20 and point out a pothole that's getting out of 21 21 patrol? hand or getting too deep. 22 A Correct. 22 Q You mean the Bloomington Transport dispatcher? 23 Q Please continue. 23 A Dispatcher. And request and sometimes the city 24 A The police chief, I have a good friend that just 24 responds. 25 went through a police orientation meeting, said 25 Q Let me back up.

4 (Pages 10 - 13)

Page 14 Page 16

- 1 A Okay.
- 2 Q My question was do you know what the current
- 3 fire department rating is?
- 4 A Oh, I'm sorry.
- 5 Q That's all right. We would have covered --
- 6 A I digress.
- 7 Q We would have covered all this stuff anyway
- 8 but --
- 9 A My understanding, the last I heard and I
- 10 wanted -- I digress because I wanted to verify
- it. Chicago has the highest rating because,
- when the city burnt to the ground, they improved
- their fire department. And my understanding,
- 14 the city's rating is equivalent to Chicago's.
- 15 Now correct me if I'm wrong or you have other
- information to update me; I haven't seen
- 17 anything to the contrary.
- 18 Q That's your understanding?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q Okay. You mentioned in your answer that the
- 21 police chief -- you talked about a friend of
- 22 yours who was at a recent police orientation --
- 23 A Right.
- 24 Q -- with the police chief.
- 25 A Spoke very highly of the police chief, I might

- 1 Q From your observations?
- 2 A I'm at intersection and there's a policeman
- 3 sitting there and somebody runs an all-way stop
- 4 in front of him, and they just don't do
- 5 anything. And, to be fair, they've been
- 6 maligned, they're undermanned, they're
- 7 understaffed. So I don't know -- I can kind of
- 8 understand the hands-off approach, but people
- 9 are getting out of hand; so ...
- 10 Q Let me ask you this about the police. There was
- 11 a study done that City of Bloomington paid for a
- 12 few years ago to look at the staffing levels of
- 13 the police department. Are you familiar with
- 14 that?
- 15 A I believe so to the extent that there was an
- article in the paper that was kind of giving an
- 17 overview of it. So somewhat familiar with what
- 18 you're talking about.
- 19 Q Your information about that study would be what
- 20 you read in the newspaper --
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q -- as opposed to reading the study yourself?
- 23 A Correct.
- 24 Q In the article you read, do you remember it
- 25 reporting on the ultimate conclusions or

Page 15

add.

1

- 2 Q Thank you. When you say police orientation,
- 3 what do you mean?
- 4 A Well, my friend thought it was just a general
- 5 overview. But the city -- the police department
- 6 does this every fall. It's basically a
- 7 recruiting session where they offer the public
- 8 to come in. People come in and sit down. And
- 9 one week, they'll have, like, the SWAT team get
- 10 up and give a presentation, patrol officer
- 11 another time. They have a judge from the court
- 12 to come in. It's a 12-week seminar or -- I call
- 13 it an orientation. But --
- 14 O So it was in that context?
- 15 A Yes. Basically recruiting. 'Cause I've had --
- 16 I've known other young -- my friend is 71 years
- old and he's not looking for a job.
- 18 Q What's his name?
- 19 A Chris Wilson. So and he --
- 20 Q So did Mr. Wilson convey that the police chief
- 21 said that they were understaffed and they were
- budgeted for 105 but had about 85 actual?
- 23 A Right. And they weren't responding to -- or
- 24 taking care of any traffic violations. And I
- can testify to that because on the bus, I see --

- recommendations from that study?
- 2 A Lot of officers were hiring in and leaving. The
- 3 only conclusion that I recall was that they are
- 4 underpaid. Since then, I know city council
- 5 pushed through big pay raises for them and
- 6 possibly -- and I might not have this correct --
- 7 bonuses, hiring bonuses and retention bonuses.
- 8 Some kind of package to that --
- 9 Q To try to help with recruiting?
- 10 A Right. And retention.
- 11 Q And retention. I don't remember if you said
- this or not. Might have been another witness.
- 13 There have been a few today. Did you say you've
- 14 had experience with calling -- I know your
- 15 neighbor had experience with Ellettsville fire
- 16 department.
 - Have you had experience with calling the
- 18 Monroe County Sheriff's Department for any
- 19 reason?
- 20 A Yes.

17

- 21 Q Did you call them to your residence? Is there a
- 22 particular situation?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 Q What's the situation?
- 25 A I walk my dogs on street. We don't have

Page 17

Page 20 1 sidewalks. And I had a fella -- I was walking, 1 an organization. And I went to a meeting at 2 and there was a four-way stop about 10 houses 2 Van Buren Fire Department where, again, I don't 3 down. He ran the stop sign and almost -- kind 3 know who was host -- my understanding was it was 4 4 of gave me a brush back. I'm not going to say Van Buren Township was hosting that meeting, but 5 5 he tried to hit me. So I yelled at him. I have I'm not clear on that, expressing their concerns 6 to add this. He had a small child in his car. 6 about funding if they were annexed and having to 7 7 Got out of his car and started swearing, cursing do away with their fire department or trimming 8 at me. Threatened to -- called me an old man. 8 manpower and equipment. And I also attended 9 Threatened into beat me up, physically. I just Washington Township. Is that on North Old 37? 10 stood there. I didn't respond in kind other 10 Q You attended a meeting out there? 11 than to say, "No, you ran the stop sign and I 11 A As well. So three. To my recollection, three 12 call you out on it." Got his license number. 12 meetings, public meetings, concerned with 13 Called the deputy's sheriff's office and said 13 annexation. And whether the organization was 14 "This guy ran a stop sign. Got out of his 14 hosting that or -- I don't think, the two fire 15 car -- I called him on it. He threatened me 15 departments, they were but possibly the one --16 with bodily harm and here's his license plate 16 but I think that was just collecting signatures 17 number." 17 at the fairgrounds. 18 Q And did a sheriff's deputy ever come to your 18 Q Let me refine my question a little bit. house to take a further statement from you? 19 A Okay. 20 A I didn't call 911. I called the sheriff's 20 Q So I understand there's monthly or semi regular 21 21 office direct. Talked to dispatcher deputy on meetings --22 duty. She told me that she had written 22 A No. 23 everything down, and they didn't have a 23 Q -- of CRAA? 24 patrolman in the area right now but they would 24 A None. Never attended or even been invited, to 25 25 follow up on it. my knowledge. And I'm not on -- they might -- I Page 19 Page 21 1 Q Did anyone follow up on it? 1 hope I'm not speaking out of turn. I'm not on 2 A Not with me. 2 social media or Facebook or any of that. So if 3 Q So you don't know if they ever followed up with 3 those, you know, invitations are extend through a driver? those social medias, I'm --5 A Correct. 5 Q It doesn't reach you? 6 Q Are you familiar with the organization County 6 A -- unaware of it. Doesn't apply to me. 7 Residents Against Annexation? 7 Q Have you ever donated to CRAA? 8 A Yes. 8 A Yes. 9 Q What is your familiarity or understanding with 9 Q How much? 10 that organization? 10 A \$300. 11 A It's a nonprofit organization. It's advocating 11 O Is that all at one time? against annexation. 12 A Yes. 13 Q Have you been involved with that organization 13 Q When did you do that? either on a board of advisors or board of 14 A Very start. Very start. 15 directors or holding an office --15 Q Have you ever communicated with other people via 16 A Position, no. 16 email or text message about the annexation? 17 Q Have you attended any meetings? 17 A No. 18 A I have to ask, if you don't mind, just for --18 Q When you signed the remonstrance petition 19 they had --19 originally, did you understand you were

6 (Pages 18 - 21)

20

23 A Yes.

24 Q Why?

expressing opposition to the annexation?

25 A To recap, I feel the city is mismanaged. Has

22 Q Are you still opposed to the annexation?

24 Q If that was --

23

20 O Your best recollection.

I don't know if --

21 A I went to the meeting at the fairgrounds. So I don't know if -- I think Margaret was there but

25 A -- they were holding -- hosting that or not as

Page 22 Page 24 1 purchase their sanitation service, which I pay, 1 been ever since I moved to Bloomington in 1996 2 2 under Fernandez, Kruzan ... on an independent service, one third of what the 3 3 Q Hamilton? city is going to charge me. And I have 4 4 A Hamilton, I'm sorry. And I just heard the new neighbors -- now I went around the city -- or 5 around my neighborhood collecting signatures and mayor on New Addition earlier this month, maybe 6 talking to my neighbors. There's neighbors that 6 the end of January. Her question was put to 7 7 are on fixed incomes. That cannot afford the her -- she ran on a platform of affordable 8 8 taxes increase and/or the forced garbage housing. And they were talking about affordable 9 9 service. They don't know what they're going to housing on this forum or news show, and somebody 10 called in or asked a question about getting 10 do. One of them lives diagonally behind. Her 11 name is Sue May. She is willing to testify to 11 business to move to Bloomington with jobs. And 12 12 her response was "No, we need to build that effect. She is semi invalid and probably 13 affordable housing first." 13 couldn't come down here to testify or make 14 14 Well, I'm a commerce guy and the jobs got testimony to you in person. But she's available 15 15 to be talked to. to come first before people can afford housing And I had other neighbors that I talked 16 16 to pay for their housing. So building housing 17 17 prior to getting business is counterproductive that wouldn't sign the remonstrance because they 18 were afraid of retaliation. Now why, didn't go 18 in my view. And I travel a 75-mile radius; I go 19 19 to estate auctions. I go over to Columbus; into it. I didn't pry. They just said, "I'm 20 20 they've got a big industrial park in Columbus. against it but I won't sign because I'm afraid." 21 Q Let me ask you about the mayor comment. 21 You can go to Mooresville; they've got a big 22 industrial park with jobs there. And pretty 22 A All right. 23 much -- even in Bedford, there's some industry 23 Q Did you hear him on a program? 24 moving in there. Not a lot. 24 A Yes. 25 O Yourself? 25 To recap, I've lived in Bloomington 25 Page 23 Page 25 1 A Yes. And quoted in the paper. 1 years. They don't attract any business. They 2 2 Q Right. I understand quoted in the paper. But bought this technical park. This land just to 3 the northwest of this building was all IU it was the mayor's voice on a radio or internet program or TV that you heard? 4 warehouses, which the city bought from that and 5 were going to turn it into a technical park, 5 A Right. Ask the Mayor, I believe, on FIU. Every 6 which no businesses, to my knowledge, have moved Wednesday, they do the surrendering counties. 7 7 in. Didn't mean to interrupt. 8 Q That's all right. What do you remember the 8 Now on the flip side, Bill Cook was well 9 established in this community and thought highly question being? 10 10 A Just basically what new and additional services of Bloomington. Bill Cook businesses and he 11 started Cook Pharmica in the city, and that's 11 were going to be added. Specifically, there was 12 now been purchased by Catalent, who's expanded 12 quotes from people in the paper. Some people --13 13 now I'm on city water and sewage. Some people that. But that expansion was pretty much due to 14 the COVID virus and packaging the -- the 14 in Section 1A and 1B are on septic tank, and 15 they asked specifically "Can we hook up to the 15 injections. 16 city?" And the answer was "Yes. \$15,000 per 16 Q Vaccines? 17 property." 17 A Yeah, thank you. So I don't see business being 18 Some people were asked "What about adding 18 attracted here. Again, my taxes always went up. sidewalks to our neighborhoods?" Because a lot 19 We asked Mayor Hamilton -- and I heard him asked 19 20 20 of the neighborhoods don't have it. Sidewalks. on FIU, I heard him asked in the paper -- "What 21 21 are you going to do for us when you annex us?" "Yes, we'll put sidewalks in but we'll charge 22 22 you for them." And he admitted. He said, "We're not going to 23 23 Q This is on the radio program? do anything." 24 24 A Radio -- no, on the septic tank and sidewalks, So the city is not going to add any

7 (Pages 22 - 25)

25

were newspaper quotes.

services. They are going to force me to

25

Page 26 Page 28

- 1 Q Okay. I appreciate you sharing that
- information. I just want to understand --
- 3 A Sure. No, I want to be clear.
- 4 Q I appreciate that. On the Ask The Mayor on
- WFIU, the question along the lines of what new
- or additional services will the city provide if 6
- 7 we're annexed. Fair summary of the question?
- 8 A That's my understanding as I recall.
- 9 Q Your testimony, I think, is in the answer, the
- mayor said we wouldn't provide --
- 11 A No, additional anything.
- 12 O No additional --
- 13 A Just fire. Fire and police. And I'm
- assuming -- and this is a big assumption on my
- 15 part -- snow removal come winter.
- 16 Q So did you understand in his answer to be saying
- 17 that the annexation area landowners would
- 18 receive the same city services that everyone
- 19 else receives and nothing beyond those? Or are
- 20 you saying something different?
- 21 A I think I'm saying something different. I think
- I'm saying they anticipated providing police,
- 23 fire, street services -- as in, snow removal --
- 24 and nothing more.

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11 O Right.

25 I think, as I recall, somebody asked about

3 Q Did you understand, though, that if the

to the out-of-city fee?

they have the programs?

annexation occurred, that the landowners in the

would be able to pay the in-city fee as opposed

9 A Yes. You mean as in, like, parks and rec, where

12 A Yeah. So if we were annexed, we would be part

programs. And we were told -- when we started

to oppose annexation, our sewage and water rates

went up 11 percent. Now my neighborhood is 60

there. But the city council passed and we have

existing city and water sewage systems; but --

accepted annexation, that 11 percent surcharge

of the city and we have a right to those

years old. So the infrastructure is already

a surcharge of 11 percent on our bills every

month for being nonresident users of the

25 Q So you're on the city water and sewer. Would

and I will clarify that for you -- if we

annexation area would be -- if there was a

charge, for example, at a city park -- they

- you -- go ahead. 1
- 2 A I was just going to say, I'm aware of three
- cave-ins on my street; two sewer and one water.
- 4 The one cave-in is at the corner of my property.
- 5 It's been there for five years. They just came
- 6 out, put a barricade.
- 7 One of the residents in my neighborhood
- 8 works for City of Bloomington Utilities. He
- 9 says they're understaffed, and they only respond
- 10 to emergency repairs and anything else that
- 11 needs to be done, the city is going to contract
- 12 out, third-party people, to do maintenance work.
- 13 Q Sorry. What's that neighbor's name?
- 14 A Ryan -- I'm sorry.
- 15 Q If it comes to you, you can add it.
- 16 A Yeah. I'll -- yeah.
- 17 Q So on the city and water service that you have
- right now, would you be agreeable to
- 19 disconnecting from that service if annexation
- 20 does not become effective?
- 21 A Do I have a choice?
- 22 Q Just asking the question. 'Cause it's the City
- 23 of Bloomington Utility provides the water and
- 24 sewer service --
- 25 A Right.

Page 29

parks. And the response was there would be no 1 Q -- and you pay the fee, the monthly charges. new or additional parks in the annexation areas. 2 A Right.

Page 27

- 3 Q But if annexation didn't happen and Bloomington
- said we're not going to provide services --
- 5 A Well --
- 6 Q -- outside of our boundaries, would you be
- 7 opposed to that?
- 8 A Let me throw this curve at you. The line I'm on
- 9 was installed to accommodate the GE Plant when
- 10 it was built on Curry Pike because they wanted
- 11 city water. So they threw that line in. My two
- 12 streets back up to the old GE facility, which is
- 13 now Cook, which is being subleased to a chip
- 14 maker and was being renovated by Cook.
- 15 So my understanding is that the City of
- 16 Bloomington has a contract with Cook to supply
- 17 water to their facility, and I'm on that line.
- 18
- So I don't know how they would disconnect me.
- 19 Q They can just disconnect your lateral, for
- 20 example.

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- 21 A They can turn it off, right, from the main. My
- 22
- 23 seems counterproductive to me, but I can't deny
- 24 your hypothesis.

utilities run down the back line. But that

25 Q Let me ask this way: Do you think it's in your

888-391-3376

would go away.

Page 30 Page 32 best interest to continue receiving the water 1 extensive. Then I received a big booklet from 1 2 the city outlining their proposal. And what 2 and sewer services from the City of Bloomington? 3 A Well, I pay my bills and I would expect them to 3 kind of concerned my about that was there was no 4 continue it. Seem to say me a commitment on outreach from the city saying -- or any public 5 forums, "Hey, people we would like to consider 5 their part when they put those lines in, for 6 annexing you. What's your thoughts?" They just 6 whatever reason. I shared with you my 7 7 sent the annexation. This is back in 2017 where understanding that it was put in as an offshoot 8 8 to, really, sell water -- or provide water to they just said "We're annexing you." 9 old GE, which is now currently the Cook 9 Q Did you get a packet --10 property. 10 A I got a packet. 11 Q -- from 2021 --11 Q So you think when a sewer line is installed and 12 A It wasn't 500 pages what I got. Oh, I got 12 there were conditions on it, those conditions 13 should you be honored? 13 another one. I got one in '17 and, if it was 14 14 A I believe so. And I might add that, '21, another follow up after the, you know, the approximately, I think it was pre COVID so we're 15 state legislature stopped the first annexation. 15 16 That went to the Supreme Court. It was 16 probably going back four years, the city did pay 17 17 an outside contractor to line the pipes because overruled. So the city came back again and sent 18 out certified mail --18 they were leaking sewage, specifically. So I'd like to think that they made an 19 19 O Right. 20 A -- another booklet. I believe I still have 20 investment and they weren't going to just walk 21 21 that. away from that investment. But I could be 22 22 Q The fiscal plan is a specific document. It's wrong. 23 Fiscal Plan 5.0. 23 Q I asked you about why you opposed the annexation 24 and you have given some information, city 24 A Where they went into purchasing equipment, 25 sanitation equipment, expanding the police 25 mismanaged and things like that. Is the change Page 31 Page 33 1 in property taxes to your parcel a basis for 1 staff. 2 your opposition to the annexation? 2 Q Right. Financial impact on overlapping taxing 3 A At the time the number that was quoted to me authorities. downstairs, it was a 60 percent increase. It 4 A Right. 4 5 would not -- personally, I have to admit, it 5 Q So you've looked at that? 6 A Yeah. 6 would not cripple me to pay the increase taxes. 7 7 Q Okay. But I have, again -- now as I said, I walk my 8 dogs up and down the neighborhood. There's 8 A I'm not vastly familiar with it. But I have 9 approximately 95 houses on my two streets. And looked through it. 10 I stop and talk to anybody that wants to talk, 10 Q Do you have any opinion or understanding of 11 and I've always asked their views and opinions 11 whether the fiscal plan that you received in 12 on annexation; and there's a lot of concerned, 12 2021 complies with Indiana law? Or you don't 13 worried people about the tax increase and the 13 know one way or the other? 14 sanitation, forced sanitation services. 14 A I don't know one way or the other. 15 Q Have you ever revived the City of Bloomington's 15 Q Do you have any information to suggest that the 16 fiscal plan that was adopted as part of the 16 fiscal plan is, somehow, inaccurate or 17 annexation ordinance in 2021? 17 inadequate under Indiana law? 18 A I believe they sent me a copy and I read it 18 A Inadequate under law, not to my knowledge. 19 thoroughly. 19 Q Or inaccurate? 20 Q It was like a 500-page report. Is that what you 20 A I believe it was inaccurate only because, in 21 21 previous lives, I worked in purchasing and 22 22 A Right. And there was -- now there was two. purchasing fleets. And I did study -- having 23 23 There was an economic development plan for worked at Bloomington Transit, I was vastly 24 developing 3rd Street corridor from Curry to Ivy 24 familiar with their operation. And the 25 sanitation -- I remember looking at the 25 Tech, which was online, which was very

9 (Pages 30 - 33)

Page 34 Page 36 sanitation. I didn't feel they were going to be 1 about. able to purchase enough equipment. They were 2 A Understand. going to expand the bus company. Didn't see

3 4

that as a possibility. And the sanitation

5 services, I didn't feel the plan was adequate to

6 purchase new and additional equipment to expand

7 to cover the new annexed areas.

8 Q And that observation is based on your life

experience --

10 A Yes.

1

2

11 Q -- work history, and things like that?

12 A Purchasing requirements, lead time for

purchasing equipment. Sanitation equipment is

14 very specialize. Buses, there's a five-year

15 delay in ordering new buss.

(Exhibit 28 previously marked.) 16

17 Q If you look at the documents on the table there,

18 there's one with an Exhibit 28 sticker on it.

19 The title is "Amended and Supplemented Answers

20 of County Residents Against Annexation to the

21 City of Bloomington's Interrogatories."

22 Do you see that?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Can you turn please to page 12, Question 13.

25 "Identify and list all facts and documents 3 Q Is there other information or testimony that you

have to offer about why you thing the annexation

5 would not be in the best interest of the

landowners in the annexation areas that we 6

7 haven't talked about?

8 A According to my research, there's two state

statutes. One is population density; we don't

10 meet the criteria for population density. And

11 the other is 60 percent of the land in our

12 proposed annexed area isn't commercial.

13 Q Have you done an analysis of the population

density on a persons per square acre basis --

15 A Personally?

16 Q Yeah.

17 A No.

18 Q Have you seen an analysis?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Where have you seen that analysis?

21 A Some public -- when I say "public," it's media

22 document analysis. And I don't -- I can't cite

23 who that was done by other than two or three

24 times -- two different sources. Now the two or

25 three -- I have to admit, two or three sources

Page 35

1 supporting your contention in the petition that

2 the annexation is not in the best interest of

3 owners of land in the annexation territory."

4 Do you see that?

5 A Yes.

6 Q If you turn to the next question on page 13,

7 under the supplemental answer heading, it says

8 "See Supplemental Answer Number 5. In addition,

9 if called to testify, the following would be

10 asked to testify about the impact of annexation

11 upon them and upon their businesses," and on the

12 very last line of that paragraph, do you see

13 your name there, Harry Ferris?

14 A End of last line, right?

15 Q Yes.

16 A Okay, yes.

17 Q So you've testified already a lot about sort of

18 your perception of the impact of the annexation

19 on others in your neighborhood or people you've

20 talked to, people on fixed incomes, for example.

21 You talked about your impression of the city and

22 mismanagement and the staffing levels at the

23 police, the fire, and utility. My question

24 is -- and probably some other things too. I

25 don't want rehash what we've already talked 1 might have been quoting each other. I don't

2 know that. My understanding that the

3 population, grossly under the state criteria.

4 Q So if it's three persons per acre, is it your

recollection that it was short in --

6 A My understanding was one and a half.

7 Q But for both 1A and 1B? Or just one and not the

8 other?

9 A 1A. And the 60 percent zoned commercial,

10 likewise, for 1A. Can't speak to 1B.

11 Q Okay. That was what I --

12 A That's what you wanted.

13 Q That's what I wanted to understand. Anything

14 else about best interest that we haven't talked

15 about that you think would support your

16 observation that the annexation is not in the

17 best interest of landowners?

18 A Again, just to reiterate: mismanagement,

19 history of mismanagement, understaffed police

20 and fire -- which are two biggies for me. And

21 personally not the taxation but --

22 Q But for other people?

23 A Most definitely. Most definitely. Some people

24 thought they would have to move, but I don't

25 think they can afford to move or they would.

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	Page 38		Page 40
1	Old Highland Village, I don't know if you're	AND FURTHER THE DEPONENT SA	_
2	vastly familiar with the area, but it's a lot of		
3	people on fixed incomes. Lot of people on fixed	l e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	
4	incomes.	ļ	
	I don't remember if I asked you this at the very		
6	beginning. Do you have an intent, present	HARRY FERRIS	
7	intent to	;	
	Yeah, you asked me. To move, no. My answer	,	
9	was, no.	}	
	Do you have a mortgage on your property?		
ı	No.		
	So when you pay your taxes, you pay them		
13	directly. Yes.		
	As opposed to the bank or the mortgage company?		
	Yes, right.	5	
	Do you have the Homestead exemption?	•	
-	Yes.	;	
	Are you 65 or over?	1	
	Yes.		
	Do you have the 65 over		
	Yes.		
	Over 65 circuit breaker on your property?		
	Yes. My wife told me we were. So let me	ļ	
25 Q	As far as you know?		
	Page 39		Page 41
1 A	Yes.	STATE OF INDIANA)	
2 Q	2 Do you know how Bloomington's municipal tax rate) SS:	
3	compares to the tax rate of other cities in	COUNTY OF MONROE)	
4	Indiana?	I, Colleen Brady, a Notary Public in and	
5 A	Only my sources from the media. And it's the	the County of Monroe, State of Indiana at la	
6	highest, is what I've heard, according to the	hereby certify that HARRY FERRIS, the de	
7	media that I read or heard.	herein, was by me first duly sworn to tell th	
8 Q	Highest in	truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the tr	uth
9 A	I haven't researched it myself.	in the aforementioned matter;	
10 Q	Highest in Monroe County, or highest compared to	That the foregoing deposition was taken	on
11	other cities in Indiana?	behalf of the Respondents, at the offices of	Stuaat
12 A	In the state.	Bloomington City Hall, 401 North Morton S	
13 Q	Okay.	Room 225, Bloomington, Monroe County, I	
14 A	Now I can't imagine places like Carmel or	the 27th day of February 2024, commencing hour of 1:41 p.m., pursuant to the Indiana R	
15	Westfield aren't higher but	Trial Procedure;	ures 01
16	MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Ferris those are all the	That Frocedure; That said deposition was taken down	
17	questions I have for you at this time. Thank	stenographically and transcribed under my	
17	you very much. I appreciate it.	direction, and that the typewritten transcript	is a
18	you very much. I appreciate it.		
	MR. BEGGS: No questions. Thank you. We'd	true record of the testimony given by the sa-	ıd
18	MR. BEGGS: No questions. Thank you. We'd	true record of the testimony given by the said deponent; and thereafter presented to said d	
18 19		deponent; and thereafter presented to said d	
18 19 20	MR. BEGGS: No questions. Thank you. We'd like signature.	deponent; and thereafter presented to said d for his signature;	eponent
18 19 20 21 22	MR. BEGGS: No questions. Thank you. We'd like signature.	deponent; and thereafter presented to said d for his signature; That the parties were represented by their	eponent
18 19 20 21	MR. BEGGS: No questions. Thank you. We'd like signature.	deponent; and thereafter presented to said d for his signature;	eponent r

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Page 42 1 relative or attorney of any party, or otherwise 2 interested in the event of this action, and am not 3 in the employ of the attorneys for any party. 4 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my 5 hand and affixed my notarial seal on this 15th 6 day of March 2024. 7 8 Colleen Brady Colleen Brady 10 11 12 Seal, Notary Public My Commission Expires: State of Indiana March 8, 2029 13 Colleen Brady County of Residence: 14 Commission No. NP0732235 Monroe 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	DATE OF DEPOSITION: 2/27/2024 WITNESS' NAME: Harry Ferris In accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure, I have read the entire transcript of my testimony or it has been read to me. I have made no changes to the testimony as transcribed by the court reporter. Date Harry Ferris Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County, the referenced witness did personally appear and acknowledge that: They have read the transcript; They signed the foregoing Sworn Statement; and Their execution of this Statement is of their free act and deed. I have affixed my name and official seal Notary Public Avoid of the Statement is of Commission Expiration Date Commission Expiration Date	Page 44
24	23 24	
25	25	
Page 43 1 Veritext Legal Solutions 1100 Superior Ave 2 Suite 1820 Cleveland, Ohio 44114 3 Phone: 216-523-1313 4 March 15, 2024 5 To: Mr. Beggs 6 Case Name: County Residents Against Annexation Et Al v. The Common Council Of The City Of Bloomington Et Al 7 Veritext Reference Number: 6465804 8 Witness: Harry Ferris Deposition Date: 2/27/2024 9 Dear Sir/Madam: 10 10 11 11 12 12 13 14 15 16 17 16 18 18 18 19 19 19 19 19 10 18 10 19 10 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	ASSIGNMENT REFERENCE NO: 6465804 CASE NAME: County Residents Against Annexation Et Al v. The Common Council Of The City Of Bloomington Et Al DATE OF DEPOSITION: 2/27/2024 WITNESS' NAME: Harry Ferris In accordance with the Rules of Civil Procedure, I have read the entire transcript of my testimony or it has been read to me. I have listed my changes on the attached Errata Sheet, listing page and line numbers as well as the reason(s) for the change(s). I request that these changes be entered as part of the record of my testimony. I have executed the Errata Sheet, as well as this Certificate, and request and authorize that both be appended to the transcript of my testimony and be incorporated therein. They are listed all of the State and County, the referenced witness did personally appear and acknowledge that: They have read the transcript; They have listed all of their corrections in the appended Errata Sheet; They signed the foregoing Sworn Statement; and Their execution of this Statement is of their free act and deed. I have affixed my name and official seal thisday of	Page 45

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	Notary Public	
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Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure Depositions Upon Oral Examination Rule 30

- (e) Submission to witness--Changes--Signing.
- (1) When the testimony is fully transcribed, the deposition shall be submitted to the witness for reading and signing and shall be read to or by him, unless such reading and signing have been waived by the witness and by each party. "Submitted to the witness" as used in this subsection shall mean (a) mailing of written notification by registered or certified mail to the witness and each attorney attending the deposition that the deposition can be read and examined in the office of the officer before whom the deposition was taken, or (b), mailing the original deposition, by registered or certified mail, to the witness at an address designated by the witness or his attorney, if requested to do so by the witness, his attorney, or the party taking the deposition.
- (2) If the witness desires to change any answer in the deposition submitted to him, each change, with a statement of the reason therefor, shall be made

by the witness on a separate form provided by the officer, shall be signed by the witness and affixed to the original deposition by the officer. A copy of such changes shall be furnished by the officer to each party.

- (3) If the reading and signing have not been waived by the witness and by each party the deposition shall be signed by the witness and returned by him to the officer within thirty (30) days after it is submitted to the witness. If the deposition has been returned to the officer and has not been signed by the witness, the officer shall execute a certificate of that fact, attach it to the original deposition and deliver it to the party taking it. In such event, the deposition may be used by any party with the same force and effect as though it had been signed by the witness.
- (4) In the event the deposition is not returned to the officer within thirty (30) days after it has been submitted to the witness, the reporter shall execute a certificate of that fact and cause the certificate to be delivered to the party taking it. In such event, any party may use a copy of the

deposition with the same force and effect as though the original had been signed by the witness.

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ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1,

2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE STATE RULES

OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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