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     STATE OF INDIANA
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                                    SS:
 2
     COUNTY OF MONROE
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            IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MONROE COUNTY
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                CAUSE NO. 53C06-2203-PL-000509
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 6
     COUNTY RESIDENTS AGAINST ANNEXATION, )
     INC., an Indiana not for profit
 7
     corporation, et al.
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9
     Remonstrators/Appellants/Petitioners,)
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                 -vs-
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     THE COMMON COUNCIL of the City of
     Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana,
12
     et al.
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              Respondents.
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                  DEPOSITION OF HARRY FERRIS
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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.
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		Page 2
1	APPEARANCES	
2	FOR THE PETITIONERS:	
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15	ALSO PRESENT:	
16	Margaret Clements	
17		
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	Questions by Andrew M. McNeil
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6	INDEX OF EXHIBITS
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	Previously Marked Exhibits:
8	
	Exhibit 28 - Amended and Supplemented
9	Answers of County Residents
	Against Annexation Inc. to City
10	of Bloomington's
	Interrogatories
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		Page 4
1	(Ti	me noted: 1:41 p.m.)
2		HARRY FERRIS,
3	hav	ing been duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole
4	tru	th, and nothing but the truth relating to said
5	mat	ter, was examined and testified as follows:
6		
7	DIR	ECT EXAMINATION,
8		QUESTIONS BY ANDREW M. MCNEIL:
9	Q	Could you state your name for the record please?
10	А	Harry full legal name; right? Harry E.
11		Ferris Jr. I just go by Harry Ferris. Father
12		is passed away. Some attorney told me I could
13		drop the Jr.
14	Q	Well, Harry, my name Andrew McNeil. I'm one of
15		the attorneys for is the City of Bloomington in
16		this annexation remonstrance case. Have you
17		ever been through a deposition before?
18	A	Yes.
19	Q	When most recently?
20	А	Probably been 25, 30 years. I worked for big
21		trucking companies. We were always suffering
22		litigation.
23	Q	Well, the process hasn't changed. Maybe the
24		technology has. So you understand, your role
25		here is to answer my questions as completely and

		Page 6
1	Q	Not currently
2	A	Currently, I'm solo.
3	Q	I'm sorry for your loss.
4	A	Thank you.
5	Q	Did you or your wife at the time sign a
6		remonstrance petition opposing the annexation?
7	A	I believe only one signature per property. So
8		my signature.
9	Q	You signed it?
10	A	Yes.
11	Q	How long have you owned the 4132 West Broadway
12		property?
13	A	Since October of 2013. Maybe the end of
14		September. Somewhere in there. So 10 plus
15		years.
16	Q	Do you own any other property in either Area 1A
17		or 1B?
18	A	No, I do not.
19	Q	Do you have any plans to move?
20	A	No, I do not, currently. I just
21	Q	Sure.
22	A	Not trying to be difficult.
23	Q	No, I appreciate that. Do you work currently?
24	A	Yes.
25	Q	Where did you work?

Q If you could ballpark?

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- A Kroger. I buy my gas at Kroger. Shop at
  Kroger. They call it Highland Village, which is
  on the west side, but it's in the city. I use
  the Planet Fitness on West 3rd Street in
  Whitehall Plaza. From time to time, I shop at
  Menander. I believe that's in the city. Shop
  at Walmart, but that's county.
- 9 | Q Do you ever go to the city parks for any reason?
  - A No, but when I -- I lived in the city for 17 years. So I did go to parks and park functions and I had younger children.
    - Q When you lived in the city, where did you live?
    - A Paddington Court, which is down off of Allendale in Sherwood Oaks. There's a Sherwood Oaks and a Sherwood Oaks II.
- 17 | O You were in Sherwood Oaks?
- A Sherwood Oaks. My back fence line was the -
  for a while, was the boundary between the city

  and the county. I woke up one morning, read in

  the paper that they had been annexed. That was

  during mayor Fernandez's term. So I asked my

  neighbor and he wasn't aware that he got annexed

  by the city.
  - Q Do you attend any other events within the city

or any events at Indiana University sporting events or other performances?

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- A No, I use state property, but I have attended one football game in the last -- probably last 20 years. No basketball games. And I have attended the opera at the Musical Arts Center once last fall.
- Q So if you were thinking the about your home on West Broadway, if you were to call the fire department -- you had a kitchen fire or something -- what's your understanding of which service provider would be the primary responder?
- A Primary responder would be Ellettsville 'cause fire department is under contract to our township, and it's approximately a long mile, less than 2 miles away just off of Curry.

And I'm glad you brought that up because when the city had an orientation for annexation downstairs, I attended that. And one of my questions was going to be to the fire department. They had a booth, the police department had a booth, and I wanted to ask what their response time would be. Now they published in the paper that it would be seven minutes, but if you've ever sat at West 3rd at

peek traffic time, they can't get from down there -- now their closest -- the city's closest station is on Franklin, over there by McDonald's and Interstate 96. I sit and watch the fire trucks can't get through the traffic. They're just sitting on their horns. So, again, and I -- my neighbors have called the fire department. And Ellettsville responds within three to five minutes. City says their response time is would be seven. I place it closer -and trying to be fair -- 11 minutes for them to respond across the interstate because of traffic.

- Do you know what rating the Bloomington fire 0 department has?
- Last I -- I'm glad you brought that up 'cause Α again -- well, the night they had orientation, I stopped at the booth for fire department and the police, and they had parks and rec there and a few other departments. They were talking about to people. So I went around the corner downstairs and talked to the people about my taxes. And they were estimating what the increase on my taxes would be at that time. Approximately 6:15, I came back and the police

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and fire department personnel had all abandoned their booth. They were supposed to be there till 8:00.

So that was my intend questions to them is fire department response time and police department response time. Now I know for a fact that the police do not have their -- to my best observations, are not -- are only responding to 911 calls. Working for the bus company, I've sat down at the Transit Center at 3rd and Walnut, which is just a block west of the police station at Lincoln and 3rd Street, and they all -- the police officers, due to their decreased numbers, cannot -- they sit at the police station and wait for a call and then four or five vehicles come running out either 3rd and Walnut or down the ally behind the bus station to respond to a call. So they are staged at the police station.

- Q You mean in contrast, they are not out on patrol?
- 22 A Correct.

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- 23 | O Please continue.
- 24 A The police chief, I have a good friend that just 25 went through a police orientation meeting, said

that they're not responding to any -- or pulling over people for traffic violations, that they're undermanned and understaffed; which my understanding, they're budgeted for 105 officers and they only have 85. So I have to question why they can't hire and retain people.

The current police chief, who was renominated or appointed by the new current mayor, repointed him. But I'm going back -- I'm guesstimating -- five, six years, city council appropriated \$225,000 for the city to fix the roof on the current police station. Instead of doing that, the police chief went and bought an armored car that created all kinds of public uproar. So I feel the city is mismanaged. And the fire department, everything I hear and read in the papers and listen to on the media, is understaffed. So both police and fire department are understaffed.

From my experience and living in the city for 17 years, my taxes went up every two years and my services went down every two years. They went from free garbage collection to paid garbage collection. They went from putting anything at the curb -- that you put at the curb

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would be picked up to limitations that anything other than two cans, which you had to buy stickers -- pay stickers to have pay for.

We had to pay for -- so we went from free garbage service to pay garbage service to limitations on how much we could put to the curb, and any special pickups, we had to pay extra for. When I moved into the property in 1996, we had free vacuum of leaves on a weekly basis.

Q Who provided that service?

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A The city. And they went from weekly to monthly to once a year to total elimination of leaf collection.

So currently I drive a bus for City of Bloomington. The city streets aren't maintained. All the city manhole covers are uneven. And there's potholes all over the city. Now sometimes we can go through our dispatcher and point out a pothole that's getting out of hand or getting too deep.

- Q You mean the Bloomington Transport dispatcher?
- 23 A Dispatcher. And request and sometimes the city responds.
  - Q Let me back up.

- 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
- 11 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
- 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 0 -- with the police chief.
- 25 A Spoke very highly of the police chief, I might

1 add.

- Q Thank you. When you say police orientation, what do you mean?
- Well, my friend thought it was just a general 4 Α 5 overview. But the city -- the police department 6 does this every fall. It's basically a recruiting session where they offer the public to come in. People come in and sit down. 8 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

  17 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 22 budgeted for 105 but had about 85 actual?
- A Right. And they weren't responding to -- or taking care of any traffic violations. And I can testify to that because on the bus, I see --

Q From your observations?

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- A I'm at intersection and there's a policeman sitting there and somebody runs an all-way stop in front of him, and they just don't do anything. And, to be fair, they've been maligned, they're undermanned, they're understaffed. So I don't know -- I can kind of understand the hands-off approach, but people
- Q Let me ask you this about the police. There was a study done that City of Bloomington paid for a few years ago to look at the staffing levels of the police department. Are you familiar with that?

are getting out of hand; so ...

- A I believe so to the extent that there was an article in the paper that was kind of giving an overview of it. So somewhat familiar with what 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

- 1 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.
- 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
- department.
- 17 Have you had experience with calling the
- 18 Monroe County Sheriff's Department for any
- 19 reason?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 | Q Did you call them to your residence? Is there a
- 22 particular situation?
- $23 \mid A \quad Yes.$
- 24 Q What's the situation?
- 25 | A I walk my dogs on street. We don't have

sidewalks. And I had a fella -- I was walking, and there was a four-way stop about 10 houses down. He ran the stop sign and almost -- kind of gave me a brush back. I'm not going to say he tried to hit me. So I yelled at him. to add this. He had a small child in his car. Got out of his car and started swearing, cursing Threatened to -- called me an old man. at me. Threatened into beat me up, physically. I just stood there. I didn't respond in kind other than to say, "No, you ran the stop sign and I call you out on it." Got his license number. Called the deputy's sheriff's office and said "This guy ran a stop sign. Got out of his car -- I called him on it. He threatened me with bodily harm and here's his license plate number."

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- Q And did a sheriff's deputy ever come to your house to take a further statement from you?
- A I didn't call 911. I called the sheriff's office direct. Talked to dispatcher deputy on duty. She told me that she had written everything down, and they didn't have a patrolman in the area right now but they would follow up on it.

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an organization. And I went to a meeting at

Van Buren Fire Department where, again, I don't

know who was host -- my understanding was it was

Van Buren Township was hosting that meeting, but

I'm not clear on that, expressing their concerns

about funding if they were annexed and having to

do away with their fire department or trimming

manpower and equipment. And I also attended

Washington Township. Is that on North Old 37?

- O You attended a meeting out there?
- A As well. So three. To my recollection, three meetings, public meetings, concerned with annexation. And whether the organization was hosting that or -- I don't think, the two fire departments, they were but possibly the one -- but I think that was just collecting signatures at the fairgrounds.
- Q Let me refine my question a little bit.
- 19 | A Okay.

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- 20 Q So I understand there's monthly or semi regular
  21 meetings --
- 22 | A No.
- 23 | O -- of CRAA?
- A None. Never attended or even been invited, to
  my knowledge. And I'm not on -- they might -- I

- 1 hope I'm not speaking out of turn. I'm not on
- 2 social media or Facebook or any of that. So if
- 3 those, you know, invitations are extend through
- 4 those social medias, I'm --
- 5 | Q It doesn't reach you?
- 6 A -- unaware of it. Doesn't apply to me.
- 7 Q Have you ever donated to CRAA?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 O How much?
- 10 A \$300.
- 11 Q Is that all at one time?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 | Q When did you do that?
- 14 A Very start. Very start.
- 15 | Q Have you ever communicated with other people via
- 16 email or text message about the annexation?
- 17 A No.
- 18 | Q When you signed the remonstrance petition
- originally, did you understand you were
- 20 expressing opposition to the annexation?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 | Q Are you still opposed to the annexation?
- 23 | A Yes.
- 24 0 Why?
- 25 A To recap, I feel the city is mismanaged. Has

been ever since I moved to Bloomington in 1996 under Fernandez, Kruzan ...

O Hamilton?

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A Hamilton, I'm sorry. And I just heard the new mayor on New Addition earlier this month, maybe the end of January. Her question was put to her -- she ran on a platform of affordable housing. And they were talking about affordable housing on this forum or news show, and somebody called in or asked a question about getting business to move to Bloomington with jobs. And her response was "No, we need to build affordable housing first."

Well, I'm a commerce guy and the jobs got to come first before people can afford housing to pay for their housing. So building housing prior to getting business is counterproductive in my view. And I travel a 75-mile radius; I go to estate auctions. I go over to Columbus; they've got a big industrial park in Columbus. You can go to Mooresville; they've got a big industrial park with jobs there. And pretty much -- even in Bedford, there's some industry moving in there. Not a lot.

To recap, I've lived in Bloomington 25

years. They don't attract any business. They bought this technical park. This land just to the northwest of this building was all IU warehouses, which the city bought from that and were going to turn it into a technical park, which no businesses, to my knowledge, have moved in.

Now on the flip side, Bill Cook was well established in this community and thought highly of Bloomington. Bill Cook businesses and he started Cook Pharmica in the city, and that's now been purchased by Catalent, who's expanded that. But that expansion was pretty much due to the COVID virus and packaging the -- the injections.

O Vaccines?

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A Yeah, thank you. So I don't see business being attracted here. Again, my taxes always went up. We asked Mayor Hamilton -- and I heard him asked on FIU, I heard him asked in the paper -- "What are you going to do for us when you annex us?" And he admitted. He said, "We're not going to do anything."

So the city is not going to add any services. They are going to force me to

purchase their sanitation service, which I pay, on an independent service, one third of what the city is going to charge me. And I have neighbors -- now I went around the city -- or around my neighborhood collecting signatures and talking to my neighbors. There's neighbors that are on fixed incomes. That cannot afford the taxes increase and/or the forced garbage service. They don't know what they're going to do. One of them lives diagonally behind. Her name is Sue May. She is willing to testify to that effect. She is semi invalid and probably couldn't come down here to testify or make testimony to you in person. But she's available to be talked to.

And I had other neighbors that I talked that wouldn't sign the remonstrance because they were afraid of retaliation. Now why, didn't go into it. I didn't pry. They just said, "I'm against it but I won't sign because I'm afraid."

- Q Let me ask you about the mayor comment.
- 22 A All right.
- 23 | Q Did you hear him on a program?
- 24 A Yes.

25 O Yourself?

1 A Yes. And quoted in the paper.

- Q Right. I understand quoted in the paper. But

  it was the mayor's voice on a radio or internet

  program or TV that you heard?
  - A Right. Ask the Mayor, I believe, on FIU. Every Wednesday, they do the surrendering counties.

    Didn't mean to interrupt.
    - Q That's all right. What do you remember the question being?
    - A Just basically what new and additional services were going to be added. Specifically, there was quotes from people in the paper. Some people -- now I'm on city water and sewage. Some people in Section 1A and 1B are on septic tank, and they asked specifically "Can we hook up to the city?" And the answer was "Yes. \$15,000 per property."

Some people were asked "What about adding sidewalks to our neighborhoods?" Because a lot of the neighborhoods don't have it. Sidewalks. "Yes, we'll put sidewalks in but we'll charge you for them."

- Q This is on the radio program?
- A Radio -- no, on the septic tank and sidewalks,
  were newspaper quotes.

- 1 Q Okay. I appreciate you sharing that
  2 information. I just want to understand --
- 3 A Sure. No, I want to be clear.
- 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
  we're annexed. Fair summary of the question?
  - A That's my understanding as I recall.
- 9 Q Your testimony, I think, is in the answer, the
  10 mayor said we wouldn't provide --
- 11 | A No, additional anything.
- 12 | O No additional --

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- 13 A Just fire. Fire and police. And I'm

  14 assuming -- and this is a big assumption on my

  15 part -- snow removal come winter.
  - Q So did you understand in his answer to be saying that the annexation area landowners would receive the same city services that everyone else receives and nothing beyond those? Or are you saying something different?
  - A I think I'm saying something different. I think
    I'm saying they anticipated providing police,
    fire, street services -- as in, snow removal -and nothing more.

I think, as I recall, somebody asked about

- parks. And the response was there would be no new or additional parks in the annexation areas.
  - Q Did you understand, though, that if the annexation occurred, that the landowners in the annexation area would be -- if there was a charge, for example, at a city park -- they would be able to pay the in-city fee as opposed to the out-of-city fee?
  - A Yes. You mean as in, like, parks and rec, where they have the programs?
  - Q Right.

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- A Yeah. So if we were annexed, we would be part of the city and we have a right to those 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 years old. So the infrastructure is already there. But the city council passed and we have a surcharge of 11 percent on our bills every month for being nonresident users of the existing city and water sewage systems; but -- and I will clarify that for you -- if we accepted annexation, that 11 percent surcharge would go away.
  - Q So you're on the city water and sewer. Would

1 you -- go ahead.

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A I was just going to say, I'm aware of three cave-ins on my street; two sewer and one water.

The one cave-in is at the corner of my property.

It's been there for five years. They just came out, put a barricade.

One of the residents in my neighborhood works for City of Bloomington Utilities. He says they're understaffed, and they only respond to emergency repairs and anything else that needs to be done, the city is going to contract out, third-party people, to do maintenance work.

- 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
  18 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?
- Q Just asking the question. 'Cause it's the City
  of Bloomington Utility provides the water and
  sewer service --
- 25 A Right.

- 1 Q -- and you pay the fee, the monthly charges.
  - A Right.

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- Q But if annexation didn't happen and Bloomington said we're not going to provide services --
- 5 A Well --
  - Q -- outside of our boundaries, would you be opposed to that?
    - A Let me throw this curve at you. The line I'm on was installed to accommodate the GE Plant when it was built on Curry Pike because they wanted city water. So they threw that line in. My two streets back up to the old GE facility, which is now Cook, which is being subleased to a chip maker and was being renovated by Cook.

So my understanding is that the City of Bloomington has a contract with Cook to supply water to their facility, and I'm on that line. So I don't know how they would disconnect me.

- Q They can just disconnect your lateral, for example.
- A They can turn it off, right, from the main. My utilities run down the back line. But that seems counterproductive to me, but I can't deny your hypothesis.
- Q Let me ask this way: Do you think it's in your

best interest to continue receiving the water 1 and sewer services from the City of Bloomington?

- Well, I pay my bills and I would expect them to Α continue it. Seem to say me a commitment on their part when they put those lines in, for whatever reason. I shared with you my understanding that it was put in as an offshoot to, really, sell water -- or provide water to old GE, which is now currently the Cook property.
- So you think when a sewer line is installed and 0 there were conditions on it, those conditions should you be honored?
- I believe so. And I might add that, Α approximately, I think it was pre COVID so we're probably going back four years, the city did pay an outside contractor to line the pipes because they were leaking sewage, specifically.

So I'd like to think that they made an investment and they weren't going to just walk away from that investment. But I could be wrong.

I asked you about why you opposed the annexation 0 and you have given some information, city mismanaged and things like that. Is the change

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- in property taxes to your parcel a basis for 1 2. your opposition to the annexation?
- 3 At the time the number that was quoted to me Α downstairs, it was a 60 percent increase. 4 Ιt 5 would not -- personally, I have to admit, it 6 would not cripple me to pay the increase taxes. But I have, again -- now as I said, I walk my 8 dogs up and down the neighborhood. There's approximately 95 houses on my two streets. 10 I stop and talk to anybody that wants to talk, 11 and I've always asked their views and opinions 12 on annexation; and there's a lot of concerned, 13 worried people about the tax increase and the sanitation, forced sanitation services. 14

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- Have you ever revived the City of Bloomington's 0 fiscal plan that was adopted as part of the annexation ordinance in 2021?
- I believe they sent me a copy and I read it Α thoroughly.
- It was like a 500-page report. Is that what you Q read?
  - Α Right. And there was -- now there was two. There was an economic development plan for developing 3rd Street corridor from Curry to Ivy Tech, which was online, which was very

extensive. Then I received a big booklet from the city outlining their proposal. And what kind of concerned my about that was there was no outreach from the city saying -- or any public forums, "Hey, people we would like to consider annexing you. What's your thoughts?" They just sent the annexation. This is back in 2017 where they just said "We're annexing you."

- 9 | Q Did you get a packet --
- 10 A I got a packet.

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- 11 | Q -- from 2021 --
- 12 It wasn't 500 pages what I got. Oh, I got Α 13 another one. I got one in '17 and, if it was 14 '21, another follow up after the, you know, the 15 state legislature stopped the first annexation. 16 That went to the Supreme Court. It was 17 overruled. So the city came back again and sent out certified mail --18
- 19 | Q Right.
- 20 A -- another booklet. I believe I still have that.
- Q The fiscal plan is a specific document. It's Fiscal Plan 5.0.
- A Where they went into purchasing equipment, sanitation equipment, expanding the police

Page 33 staff. 1 2. 0 Right. Financial impact on overlapping taxing 3 authorities. 4 Α Right. So you've looked at that? 6 Α Yeah. 0 Okay. I'm not vastly familiar with it. But I have 8 Α 9 looked through it. 10 Do you have any opinion or understanding of 11 whether the fiscal plan that you received in 12 2021 complies with Indiana law? Or you don't 13 know one way or the other? 14 I don't know one way or the other. Α 15 Do you have any information to suggest that the 0 16 fiscal plan is, somehow, inaccurate or 17 inadequate under Indiana law? 18 Inadequate under law, not to my knowledge. Α 19 Or inaccurate? 0 20 I believe it was inaccurate only because, in Α 21 previous lives, I worked in purchasing and 2.2 purchasing fleets. And I did study -- having 23 worked at Bloomington Transit, I was vastly 24 familiar with their operation. And the

sanitation -- I remember looking at the

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sanitation. I didn't feel they were going to be able to purchase enough equipment. They were going to expand the bus company. Didn't see that as a possibility. And the sanitation services, I didn't feel the plan was adequate to purchase new and additional equipment to expand to cover the new annexed areas.

- Q And that observation is based on your life experience --
- 10 A Yes.

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- 11 | Q -- work history, and things like that?
  - A Purchasing requirements, lead time for purchasing equipment. Sanitation equipment is very specialize. Buses, there's a five-year delay in ordering new buss.

(Exhibit 28 previously marked.)

Q If you look at the documents on the table there, there's one with an Exhibit 28 sticker on it.

The title is "Amended and Supplemented Answers of County Residents Against Annexation to the City of Bloomington's Interrogatories."

Do you see that?

- 23 | A Yes.
- Q Can you turn please to page 12, Question 13.

25 "Identify and list all facts and documents

supporting your contention in the petition that the annexation is not in the best interest of owners of land in the annexation territory."

Do you see that?

A Yes.

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- Q If you turn to the next question on page 13, under the supplemental answer heading, it says "See Supplemental Answer Number 5. In addition, if called to testify, the following would be asked to testify about the impact of annexation upon them and upon their businesses," and on the very last line of that paragraph, do you see your name there, Harry Ferris?
- A End of last line, right?
- 15 | O Yes.
- 16 A Okay, yes.
  - Q So you've testified already a lot about sort of your perception of the impact of the annexation on others in your neighborhood or people you've talked to, people on fixed incomes, for example. You talked about your impression of the city and mismanagement and the staffing levels at the police, the fire, and utility. My question is -- and probably some other things too. I don't want rehash what we've already talked

- 1 about.
- 2 A Understand.
- Q Is there other information or testimony that you have to offer about why you thing the annexation would not be in the best interest of the landowners in the annexation areas that we
- 7 haven't talked about?
- A According to my research, there's two state

  statutes. One is population density; we don't

  meet the criteria for population density. And

  the other is 60 percent of the land in our

  proposed annexed area isn't commercial.
- 13 Q Have you done an analysis of the population 14 density on a persons per square acre basis --
- 15 A Personally?
- 16 0 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 37

- 1 might have been quoting each other. I don't
- 2 know that. My understanding that the
- population, grossly under the state criteria.
- 4 Q So if it's three persons per acre, is it your
- 5 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 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
- 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
- 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
- thought they would have to move, but I don't
- 25 think they can afford to move or they would.

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- Old Highland Village, I don't know if you're
- 2 | vastly familiar with the area, but it's a lot of
- 3 people on fixed incomes. Lot of people on fixed
- 4 incomes.
- 5 | Q I don't remember if I asked you this at the very
- 6 beginning. Do you have an intent, present
- 7 intent to --
- 8 A Yeah, you asked me. To move, no. My answer
- 9 was, no.
- 10 | Q Do you have a mortgage on your property?
- 11 A No.
- 12 | Q So when you pay your taxes, you pay them
- 13 directly.
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q As opposed to the bank or the mortgage company?
- 16 A Yes, right.
- 17 | Q Do you have the Homestead exemption?
- 18 | A Yes.
- 19 | O Are you 65 or over?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Do you have the 65 over --
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Over 65 circuit breaker on your property?
- 24 A Yes. My wife told me we were. So let me --
- 25 | Q As far as you know?

		Page 39
1	A	Yes.
2	Q	Do you know how Bloomington's municipal tax rate
3		compares to the tax rate of other cities in
4		Indiana?
5	A	Only my sources from the media. And it's the
6		highest, is what I've heard, according to the
7		media that I read or heard.
8	Q	Highest in
9	A	I haven't researched it myself.
10	Q	Highest in Monroe County, or highest compared to
11		other cities in Indiana?
12	A	In the state.
13	Q	Okay.
14	A	Now I can't imagine places like Carmel or
15		Westfield aren't higher but
16		MR. MCNEIL: Mr. Ferris those are all the
17		questions I have for you at this time. Thank
18		you very much. I appreciate it.
19		MR. BEGGS: No questions. Thank you. We'd
20		like signature.
21		(Time noted: 2:30 p.m.)
22		
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						Page	40
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1	STATE OF INDIANA )
	) ss:
2	COUNTY OF MONROE )
3	I, Colleen Brady, a Notary Public in and for
4	the County of Monroe, State of Indiana at large, do
5	hereby certify that HARRY FERRIS, the deponent
6	herein, was by me first duly sworn to tell the
7	truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
8	in the aforementioned matter;
9	That the foregoing deposition was taken on
L 0	behalf of the Respondents, at the offices of
L1	Bloomington City Hall, 401 North Morton Street,
L 2	Room 225, Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, on
L 3	the 27th day of February 2024, commencing at the
L <b>4</b>	hour of 1:41 p.m., pursuant to the Indiana Rules of
L 5	Trial Procedure;
L 6	That said deposition was taken down
L 7	stenographically and transcribed under my
L 8	direction, and that the typewritten transcript is a
L 9	true record of the testimony given by the said
20	deponent; and thereafter presented to said deponent
21	for his signature;
22	That the parties were represented by their
23	counsel as aforementioned.
24	I do further certify that I am a disinterested
25	person in this cause of action; that I am not a

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	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	
	The deposition transcript taken in the above-referenced
11	
	matter, with the reading and signing having not been
12	
	expressly waived, has been completed and is available
13	
	for review and signature. Please call our office to
14	
	make arrangements for a convenient location to
15	
	accomplish this or if you prefer a certified transcript
16	
4.5	can be purchased.
17	
1.0	If the errata is not returned within thirty days of your
18	
1.0	receipt of this letter, the reading and signing will be
19	deemed waived.
20	deemed walved.
21	Sincerely,
22	Sincerery,
23	Production Department
24	110ddcton Deparement
25	NO NOTARY REQUIRED IN CA

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Date		 Harry Fer		
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		TO BEFORE N		
DAY OF.			. 20	•
	Notary P	AD11C		

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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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