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STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF MONROE  
IN THE MONROE CIRCUIT COURT

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COUNTY RESIDENTS AGAINST  
ANNEXATION, INC., an Indiana  
not for profit corporation,  
et al.,

Remonstrators/  
Appellants/  
Petitioners,

v.

THE COMMON COUNCIL of the City  
of Bloomington, Monroe County,  
Indiana, et al.,  
Respondents.

Cause No.  
53C06-2203-PL-  
000509

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DEPOSITION OF JULIE THOMAS

DATE: Wednesday, March 06, 2024

TIME: 1:06 p.m.

LOCATION: Bungler & Robertson  
211 South College Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47404

REPORTED BY: Andrew Pronschinske

JOB NO.: 6485936

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF REMONSTRATORS/APPELLANTS/PETITIONERS  
COUNTY RESIDENTS AGAINST ANNEXATION, INC.:

E. JEFF COCKERILL, ESQUIRE  
Monroe County Public Defender  
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Bloomington, IN 47404  
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WILLIAM J. BEGGS, ESQUIRE  
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Bloomington, IN 47404  
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(812) 332-9295

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA:

STEPHEN C. UNGER, ESQUIRE  
Bose McKinney & Evans LLP  
111 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204  
sunger@boselaw.com  
(317)684-5465

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A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont'd)

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA:

ANDREW M. MCNEIL, ESQUIRE

Bose McKinney & Evans LLP

111 Monument Circle

Indianapolis, IN 46204

amcneil@boselaw.com

(317) 684-5253

ALSO PRESENT:

Margaret Clements, Representative,

County Residents Against Annexation, Inc.

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I N D E X

EXAMINATION:	PAGE
By Mr. Unger	7
By Mr. Beggs	104

E X H I B I T S

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Exhibit 52	Baker Tilly Report, 07/23/2021	62

P R E V I O U S L Y M A R K E D E X H I B I T S

NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Exhibit 28	Amended And Supplemented Answers of County Residents Against Annexation, Inc.	77

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THE REPORTER: Good afternoon. My name is Andrew Pronschinske; I am the reporter assigned by Veritext to take the record of this proceeding. We are now on the record at 1:06 p.m.

This is the deposition of Julie Thomas taken in the matter of County Residents Against Annexation, Incorporated, an Indiana not for profit corporation, et al. vs. The Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, et al. on March 6, 2024, at the offices of Bunger & Robertson, 211 South College Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404.

I am a notary authorized to take acknowledgments and administer oaths in Indiana.

Additionally, absent an objection on the record before the witness is sworn, all parties and the witness understand and agree that any certified transcript produced from the recording of this proceeding:

- is intended for all uses permitted under applicable procedural and evidentiary rules and laws in the same manner as a deposition recorded by stenographic means; and
- shall constitute written stipulation

1 of such.

2 At this time will everyone in  
3 attendance please identify yourself for the record,  
4 beginning from my left.

5 MR. UNGER: Stephen Unger, Bose  
6 McKinney & Evans, counsel for the City of Bloomington.

7 MR. MCNEIL: Andrew McNeil, cocounsel  
8 with Mr. Unger.

9 MR. BEGGS: Bill Beggs for the  
10 petitioners.

11 MS. CLEMENTS: Margaret Clements,  
12 County Residents Against Annexation Representative.

13 MR. COCKERILL: Jeff Cockerill with the  
14 County attorneys' office.

15 MS. THOMAS: Julie Thomas, county  
16 commissioner.

17 THE REPORTER: Thank you. Hearing no  
18 objection, I will now swear in the witness.

19 Please raise your right hand.

20 WHEREUPON,

21 JULIE THOMAS,  
22 called as a witness and having been first duly sworn  
23 to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but  
24 the truth, was examined and testified as follows:

25 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

1                   You may proceed.

2                   EXAMINATION

3       BY MR. UNGER:

4           Q       Good afternoon, Ms. Thomas.

5           A       Hello.

6           Q       I'm going to be asking the questions.

7           A       Yeah.

8           Q       Have you ever been deposed before?

9           A       Yes.

10          Q       What was that context?

11          A       I know there was -- I don't remember.

12          Honestly, I don't remember.  It's -- there have been a  
13          number of times.

14          Q       It's been a while?

15          A       It's been a while, but there have been a  
16          number of situations both public and -- and private,  
17          so.

18          Q       Okay.  Well, let me -- yeah, I will just  
19          kind of maybe give you some ground rules and stuff.

20          A       Sure.

21          Q       So one thing is, as you know, he is  
22          recording everything that we're saying.  So it's  
23          important that you let me finish my questions before  
24          you answer, because he can't type both of our comments  
25          at the same time.  Second is -- do you understand

1 that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Second is it's important that you  
4 answer yes and no and not shake your head or uh-huh so  
5 that he can type the answer, because he can't type a  
6 head shake. Do you understand that?

7 A Right, right, yes.

8 Q Yes. Thank you. You understand you're  
9 under oath?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And so you understand your  
12 responsibility today is answer my questions as  
13 truthfully and completely as you can. Do you  
14 understand that?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. If there is -- if I ask you any  
17 questions and you don't understand them, or you don't  
18 believe you can answer them truthfully or completely,  
19 will you let me know?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. And then, certainly, if you need a  
22 break, let us know, and if you need to use the  
23 restroom or anything, we can accommodate that. I just  
24 ask that you finish the question, your answer to the  
25 question that I have last asked. Is that okay?



1 A Sure, yes.

2 Q Okay. What did you do to prepare for your  
3 deposition today?

4 A What did I do to prepare for it?

5 Q Yes.

6 A Had some conversations internally with  
7 Mr. Cockerill about what to expect. I reread portions  
8 of the Reedy report, version five, and the Baker Tilly  
9 report that we had commissioned from the County, spoke  
10 with Mr. Beggs briefly as well.

11 Q Anybody talk to you about the prior  
12 depositions that have already occurred in this case?

13 A I know there have been some. And yeah,  
14 that's -- so -- so there have been depositions.  
15 That's what I know.

16 Q Okay. Has anybody talked to you about those  
17 depositions or the questions that were asked in the  
18 depositions?

19 A Not -- very generally.

20 Q And what were the questions you were advised  
21 of?

22 A Just that there were discussions about the  
23 impact of annexation on individuals.

24 Q Anything else?

25 A Not that I recall.

1 Q Okay. Did you guys go over any talking  
2 points? I don't want to know about your discussions  
3 with Mr. Cockerill, but with Mr. Beggs or  
4 Ms. Clements, did you guys talk about talking points  
5 at all?

6 A No, not extensively.

7 Q What points did you want to make sure you  
8 got across today?

9 A I -- it wasn't about points to get across.  
10 It was -- my question was how much research do I need  
11 to do at this point, because I'm very limited on time  
12 this week. So it was more that kind of question.

13 Q Okay. Anything else that you reviewed  
14 besides the Reedy report and the Baker Tilly report?

15 A No.

16 Q Okay. Thank you. Do you live in any of the  
17 annexation areas?

18 A Well, that's an interesting question. No.

19 Q Why is it an interesting question?

20 A I'm on the edge of one that was dropped,  
21 which is seven, which is the old annexation area  
22 seven.

23 Q You actually live inside of what would have  
24 been the --

25 A No, across the street from it, yeah.

1 Q Okay. And you currently live in the city's  
2 boundaries?

3 A No.

4 Q Okay. Where do you live; what's the  
5 address?

6 A It's 3030 North Russell Road.

7 Q So you will have to forgive me. I'm trying  
8 to recall. Is that on the east side?

9 A Yes, northeast.

10 Q Okay. Was your property ever in one of the  
11 annexation areas -- ever in one of the proposed?

12 A No, that -- that I know of.

13 THE REPORTER: I just want to be clear  
14 that, for the sake of transcript production, if we  
15 could be sure to try and not talk over one another,  
16 that would make the process easier. Thank you.

17 BY MR. UNGER:

18 Q Do you own property in any of the annexation  
19 areas?

20 A No.

21 Q So I assume you did not sign a remonstrance  
22 petition?

23 A That's correct. I did not sign a  
24 remonstrance petition.

25 Q Do you any of your relatives own property or

1 live in any of the annexation areas?

2 A No.

3 Q Who lives with you at your home?

4 A My dog.

5 Q No one else?

6 A Not right now.

7 Q Okay. Where is your office?

8 A Kirkwood, the courthouse.

9 Q Do you come to the office every day?

10 A No.

11 Q How often?

12 A Anywhere from one to four times a week, on  
13 average. It depends.

14 Q Do the county commissioners meet every week?

15 A Yes, most weeks, yeah.

16 Q Do you have any employment besides being a  
17 county commissioner?

18 A Yes.

19 Q What is that?

20 A I teach part-time at Franklin College at --  
21 in Franklin. That's two days a week right now, and of  
22 course, it's only February to May. And I teach online  
23 at Southern New Hampshire University. I have other  
24 part-time teaching experiences in my past, but those  
25 are the most recent, most current.

1 Q What do you teach?

2 A History, Russian, European. I have also  
3 taught in the political science department at IU  
4 Bloomington. That was last Spring.

5 Q Have you had any other jobs in the  
6 Bloomington community?

7 A Yes, I have.

8 Q What are those?

9 A I had a business for a time downtown. I had  
10 a second business for a time where we sold goods at  
11 the farmers market. And IU was my main employment  
12 before I became an elected official.

13 Q How long did you teach at IU?

14 A I was -- well, I was a graduate student at  
15 IU starting in '93 and taught there part-time starting  
16 in '97, and then I left there in two thousand, I  
17 think, seven. 2007, I think. I was teaching  
18 full-time, part-time there.

19 Q How long have you been a county  
20 commissioner?

21 A Since December 2012.

22 Q Did you hold any elected offices before  
23 that?

24 A Yes, county council. That term started in  
25 January 1, 2009.

1 Q Anything before that?

2 A No.

3 Q Could you explain for the record what are  
4 the County requirements with respect to sewer and  
5 water service for new residential development or  
6 neighborhoods?

7 A I could speak generally about it, because --  
8 let me just speak generally about it, and that is  
9 that, with a new development, when somebody proposes a  
10 -- and I'm going to speak about subdivisions, because  
11 that's the thing we see most often. Smaller building  
12 projects, we don't necessarily see.

13 So a subdivision is proposed. A developer  
14 has to provide verification that they have access to  
15 all the utilities necessary, including water, sewer,  
16 or they have got a provision for sewer, and  
17 electricity, and natural gas, if relevant. So they  
18 show -- they have connection letters that they include  
19 with their proposal.

20 Q Is there a lot limit size if a property  
21 owner wants to have a septic system for a residential  
22 home?

23 A There is a minimum lot size for septic based  
24 on state statute.

25 Q Do you know what that is?

1           A     I believe it's still an acre.

2           Q     Does the County have any more restrictive  
3 requirements than the one acre for a homeowner septic  
4 system?

5           A     We follow state statute.

6           Q     Okay. I think I have heard before that  
7 there's a two and a half acre restriction. Are you  
8 familiar with that?

9           A     I'm not familiar with that.

10          Q     In Monroe County?

11          A     Not familiar with that.

12          Q     Okay. What about a commercial property; do  
13 you also?

14          A     There is such a thing as commercial septic,  
15 but I don't know the details of that.

16          Q     Is there a housing shortage in Monroe  
17 County?

18          A     I couldn't answer that. I don't know. And  
19 what I do know is that we hear people say there's one,  
20 but if you look at real estate listings, there's a lot  
21 out there on the market.

22                 I think there is -- I would say that, from  
23 my personal knowledge and experience, that there is a  
24 shortage of housing that is affordable for a  
25 two-income family with children.

1           And part of that is because we don't -- we  
2 are not allowed to set a living wage in our county  
3 that would allow people to purchase a home, because  
4 land is expensive, and then you add in the cost of  
5 building. So homes are what they cost. And can  
6 people afford them? Not always.

7           Q     You said you're not allowed to set a living  
8 wage. Is that because of state statute?

9           A     Yes, that is a state statute.

10          Q     If the Monroe County commissioners were  
11 allowed to set a county-wide living wage, would you be  
12 supportive of that?

13          A     Absolutely.

14          Q     So aside from affordable housing, you don't  
15 believe -- it's your opinion there's not a housing  
16 shortage in Monroe County?

17          A     Correct.

18          Q     Does the County have a plan to address the  
19 affordable housing shortage?

20          A     Yes, and -- and that involves -- well,  
21 affordable is a -- is a very specific federal term.  
22 So maybe -- and I don't like the term workforce  
23 housing, because that implies that unless you're  
24 retired, everybody is the same, and they're not.

25                 So I don't know what to call it, but housing



1 in the lower-cost bracket -- maybe I could use that  
2 term -- is -- it's something we are always thinking  
3 about. But again, the cost to purchase land  
4 automatically creates housing that is more expensive.

5 And our -- so what we do is we look at it as  
6 best we can development by development. We supported  
7 the Osage Habitat for Humanity project with American  
8 Rescue Plan Act dollars.

9 We are looking at doing the same at another  
10 location at South Walnut with American Rescue Plan Act  
11 dollars to fund some of the infrastructure that's  
12 necessary.

13 We are -- we had a discussion last night  
14 with the redevelopment commission for the county about  
15 looking into a -- the potential of establishing a  
16 residential TIF that would have to be -- they would  
17 have to meet some requirements for affordability in  
18 terms of their income.

19 So they would have to have a maximum income  
20 to purchase property there. So it's -- it's area by  
21 area, plan by plan.

22 Q You mentioned a cost bracket. What do you  
23 believe that cost bracket to be for the shortage, the  
24 area that has a shortage of housing?

25 A I would say that people are hard-pressed to

1 find a livable home for under 200,000, and I just  
2 don't know if that's possible to build. So it would  
3 be great to be more creative, tiny homes, things like  
4 that.

5 Q You mentioned the Habitat for Humanity  
6 project. Where is that located?

7 A The Osage property is near the old RCA  
8 plants, so it's near RCA Park.

9 Q Forgive me. Is that in the city limits?

10 A Yes, it is in the city.

11 Q And the South Walnut project, that is not  
12 located in the city limits. Correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q Which annexation area is that in? Do you  
15 know?

16 A I don't. I don't know. I don't.

17 Q You -- sorry. You understand it's in one of  
18 the city annexation areas?

19 A I don't know that it is.

20 Q Okay. Does the South Walnut project, do you  
21 believe it will require municipal services?

22 A If we could get municipal services, that  
23 would be better than having to build a package plant,  
24 because that is our other option that we have utilized  
25 elsewhere. But my understanding from a conversation

1 today is that we have been told that there isn't the  
2 capacity for the city to add this onto their current  
3 wastewater system.

4 Q I want to quantify. We're talking about a  
5 shortage. How big of a shortage do you think there  
6 is? How many additional affordable housing options do  
7 you believe are needed?

8 A This is -- this is a very big question, and  
9 we are working toward getting a reliable answer that  
10 doesn't come from the realtors, that doesn't come from  
11 speculation or people's subjective experiences talking  
12 to folks in the community.

13 I don't know that number, and we were  
14 speaking last night at our plan commission about why  
15 we do need that number and how we're going to come up  
16 with that number.

17 Q The city hasn't done any -- or I'm sorry.  
18 The County has not done any studies to determine what  
19 the shortage is?

20 A No.

21 Q Okay. Do you believe that the South Walnut  
22 project would need city police service, for example?

23 A If it's not in the city, it won't need city  
24 police service. It would have sheriff's deputies.

25 It's 70 units. It's not -- it's not a huge project.

1           Q     Can you explain to me, on the South Walnut  
2 project, what the County's role has been in that  
3 project?

4           A     So far, not much. It hasn't come through  
5 planning yet. A PUD, planned unit development,  
6 ordinance has not been proposed yet.

7                     We are at the stage where we have considered  
8 it as -- in my other role in county government, along  
9 with the council, to be worthy of consideration for  
10 American Rescue Plan Act funding, but that doesn't  
11 mean that it's been -- that's not -- that doesn't make  
12 it a planning petition that's been approved or not.  
13 So it's -- it's very early.

14          Q     So it's a private developer that would be  
15 doing that project?

16          A     It's a mix between Habitat for Humanity and  
17 a private developer as it's proposed right now. And  
18 again, that's -- we don't know.

19          Q     And are you familiar with the city's policy  
20 on not connecting new sewer outside of its boundaries  
21 currently?

22          A     Well, we have had a petition that came  
23 before us in Fieldstone, and the petitioners said they  
24 wanted to put in storage units, but the area was  
25 supposed to be housing.

1           And we asked why they weren't doing housing,  
2           because the PUD for that area said this is supposed to  
3           be high-density housing, and he said the city will not  
4           connect the sewer. So that stalled out that  
5           development in our eyes.

6           We voted it down as a storage facility,  
7           because if we need housing, we need housing. We don't  
8           need storage facilities. So but that was during the  
9           previous mayoral administration.

10           I don't have anything in writing or a direct  
11           -- any direct communication from anyone in the city to  
12           either myself or conveyed through planning staff to us  
13           that -- that there is going to be zero sewer hookup  
14           for areas outside the city. We can build package  
15           plants. That's -- developers can build package  
16           plants. It's -- it's a viable option.

17           Q       Has the County studied the potential for a  
18           package plant at the South Walnut property?

19           A       It's too early to do so.

20           Q       Do you have any estimate on the cost of a  
21           package plant?

22                       MR. BEGGS: Just objection to the form  
23           to the extent it doesn't define the details of what  
24           the package plant will serve.

25           //

1 BY MR. UNGER:

2 Q Any cost -- go ahead and answer my question.

3 A I -- I have no idea.

4 Q No idea what a package plant would cost?

5 A No, nothing -- nothing has been -- what I --  
6 when I talk about the South Walnut project, the only  
7 thing that's been done is we have looked at it as a  
8 potential for American Rescue Plan Act funding.  
9 That's -- and it's about 70 units. That's all I can  
10 tell you about it. It's so early. It's so early.

11 Q Do you know what package plants generally  
12 cost?

13 A No.

14 MR. BEGGS: Object to form.

15 BY MR. UNGER:

16 Q Do you know what the environmental  
17 requirements are for having a package plant?

18 MR. BEGGS: Object to form.

19 A No.

20 Q Has the County done any studies of the cost  
21 to operate a package plant?

22 A No.

23 Q Do you have any familiarity with the  
24 requirements to operate a package plant?

25 A No.

1 MR. BEGGS: Object to form.

2 Foundation.

3 BY MR. UNGER:

4 Q Have you discussed at all with the City the  
5 potential for a package plant?

6 A No.

7 MR. BEGGS: You mean that South Walnut  
8 location, Counsel, or do you mean anywhere?

9 MR. UNGER: Anywhere.

10 THE WITNESS: No.

11 BY MR. UNGER:

12 Q I understand the County also has plans for a  
13 proposed new jail?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What's the proposed locations that have been  
16 identified for that project?

17 A Are you asking where we have looked in  
18 totality or where we're looking now?

19 Q Where you're looking now.

20 A Our current focus is at North Park, which is  
21 the northwest corner of I-69 and State Road 46.

22 Q Is that in the city?

23 A No.

24 Q Do you expect that a jail at that location  
25 would require city sewer and water service?

1           A       It would not.  There is a package plant that  
2 already exists on that property with sufficient  
3 capacity.  It was built for what was supposed to be a  
4 hospital, so it is well-served.

5           Q       Do you know who operates that package plant  
6 currently?

7           A       No.

8           Q       Is it operated by a utility?

9           A       I don't know.

10          Q       Is it in use currently?

11          A       It exists.

12          Q       Do you know how much capacity it has?

13          A       No.

14          Q       Has the County had discussions with the  
15 owner of the package plant about its ability to use it  
16 for the new jail?

17          A       I'm not sure what to do with that question,  
18 because -- let me answer it this way.  North Park is a  
19 planned unit development.  That planned unit  
20 development has had some infrastructure upgrades,  
21 including roadway and a package plant.  Those are --  
22 that roadway, that package plant exists.  There is a  
23 TIF.  It is a TIF area.

24                 So I -- the assumption is that development  
25 on -- in North Park's PUD would utilize that package



1 plant. So no, we have, that I know of, not had a -- I  
2 have not had a discussion with anyone about that,  
3 because that's the assumption.

4 Q You are personally opposed to the city's  
5 annexations. Is that correct?

6 A Can you clarify that question for me?

7 Q Yes. Are you opposed to the city's  
8 annexations personally?

9 A I -- are you talking about their plans 1A,  
10 1B, 1C, 2, 3, 4, 5 6?

11 Q Are you opposed to the city's annexation of  
12 area 1A?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Are you opposed to the city's annexation of  
15 area 1B?

16 A Yes.

17 Q When do you think it is appropriate for  
18 Bloomington to annex?

19 A I look at city annexations like people think  
20 about businesses. Businesses sometimes grow and  
21 expand, and they do so to increase their revenue.  
22 That's exactly why cities do it.

23 There is a time and a place for annexation,  
24 and that is typically done by working with residents  
25 who live near the border, finding out what they need.

1 It's kind of old-fashioned, the way I think about it,  
2 but it's how it used to work.

3 Too much land too quickly is -- is expensive  
4 for current city residents, and it -- and it is  
5 difficult to ensure that people receive services that  
6 they need if it's done too fast, if the leap is too  
7 big. That's the concern, and I -- I'm trying to look  
8 out for every resident of the county, whether they  
9 live in the city or not.

10 And I heard complaints from people within  
11 the city concerned about the annexation plans and the  
12 cost to the community, especially because of the  
13 recent issues regarding a lack of public safety, too  
14 few people on the police force.

15 And city residents would say, and I was  
16 surprised, but city residents would say to me, "What's  
17 going to happen to me? Can you help fight this?"

18 Q So is it ever appropriate for Bloomington to  
19 involuntary annex property owners?

20 A I believe the way the state of Indiana  
21 manages annexation is wrong. It -- it creates an  
22 adversarial relationship when one does not need to  
23 exist. It would be preferable to have the City have a  
24 clear plan that is gradual, that encompasses the needs  
25 of the people who they are adding, but I think that

1 the city has some things to do right now in terms of  
2 improving its own internal infrastructure before it  
3 thinks about growing.

4 Q So I'm sorry. My question was, should  
5 Bloomington ever be allowed to annex property owners  
6 involuntarily?

7 A I don't think anyone should ever been able  
8 to involuntarily annex somebody. I can see that they  
9 have a desire to do it. That doesn't mean it's the  
10 right thing to do.

11 Q Should Bloomington ever be allowed to annex  
12 urban areas outside their boundaries involuntarily?

13 A Legally, they have that right under Indiana  
14 law, but I don't think it's an appropriate law.

15 Q Should Bloomington be allowed to annex areas  
16 that agreed to be annexed in exchange for sewer  
17 service?

18 A I do not believe that requiring people to be  
19 annexed if they want access to sewer service is fair.  
20 I do not believe that that is a way that people should  
21 be treated.

22 The individual has to pay for that hookup.  
23 They have to pay. If it's a subdivision, the -- the  
24 developer is paid for the infrastructure and then  
25 passed it on to the homeowners, I would assume,

1 because businesspeople.

2 And then to say, "And now, you are agreeing  
3 to be annexed," I don't -- it doesn't feel right to  
4 me. The people who are outside of the city limits  
5 already pay a premium for sewer service by the city as  
6 well.

7 Q Do you think the City should be allowed to  
8 refuse the extension of sewer utilities outside of its  
9 boundaries without being annexed first?

10 A The City may do that. They have that right,  
11 absolutely. I don't know if they really are out of  
12 capacity. I -- and if they are, then they should not  
13 be providing sewer service outside the city. I -- I  
14 agree.

15 Q If they have capacity?

16 A Then it's up to them, but it's a moneymaking  
17 venture, and I don't mean that in the sense of profit,  
18 but I mean they get sufficient revenue. They charge a  
19 rate based on what it costs them to process waste, and  
20 they charge people outside the city more. That's --  
21 that's their prerogative.

22 Q Absent the consent of the property owners,  
23 should Bloomington ever be able to annex area 1A?

24 A I -- I think I need that reworded. Thank  
25 you.

1           Q     So again, I understand you're opposed to  
2 involuntary annexation. I understand that. Is there  
3 any scenario where Bloomington should be able to  
4 annex area 1A absent landowner consent?

5           A     It seems like you know that's my answer.  
6 You already know my answer. I feel like we have  
7 already done this.

8           Q     Let me rephrase it.

9           A     Yeah, maybe that would help.

10          Q     Should area 1A always be unincorporated?

11          A     Part of it may become incorporated and part  
12 of the city. Part of it may not. I don't know where  
13 that line is, but I certainly understand that there is  
14 a place and a time for annexation.

15                   I certainly understand that we have a  
16 terrible law in Indiana, and if you have the law you  
17 have, it's what you work with. And so annexation does  
18 happen.

19                   It should not happen with such a large space  
20 in such a compressed time, and it should happen a good  
21 -- for a good public servant, it should happen with  
22 the people wanting it or at least being okay with it,  
23 in other words, getting them on board first.

24          Q     Well, what I'm trying to understand is, if  
25 the property owners will not agree to be annexed, is

1 there a scenario in which you think it would be  
2 appropriate for Bloomington to still move forward with  
3 annexing area 1A?

4 A No.

5 Q Okay. What about with respect to 1B?

6 A Same.

7 Q Have there been other involuntary  
8 annexations in Monroe County that you did not oppose?

9 A I was not part of county government, and  
10 you're talking about -- can you -- can you ask the  
11 question again?

12 Q Have there been other involuntary  
13 annexations in Monroe County that you did not oppose?

14 A I was not -- I don't believe I was part of  
15 county government the last time the City annexed. And  
16 the town of Ellettsville currently annexes gradually,  
17 and we have not become involved in any way in  
18 opposition to those annexations.

19 Q Do you know if those were involuntary  
20 annexations?

21 A I don't know. I -- I know -- no, I don't  
22 know. No, I don't know.

23 Q What about Stinesville; have they annexed  
24 since you have been involved?

25 A No, not that I know of.

1           Q       The Ellettsville annexations, was the impact  
2 on the landowners from those annexations acceptable to  
3 you?

4                   MR. BEGGS:  Objection to form and  
5 foundation.

6           A       Yeah, I don't know what you mean by impact.

7           Q       Was the financial impact to the landowners  
8 acceptable to you?

9                   MR. BEGGS:  Objection.  Form.

10          A       I did not -- the only thing I can tell you  
11 is that I have not heard complaints from residents  
12 about the potential of being annexed by the town of  
13 Ellettsville.  Their tax structure is very different  
14 than the City of Bloomington's, however, and that may  
15 have something to do with it.

16                   In addition, the annexations that I am most  
17 familiar with -- and again, I don't know about each  
18 and every one of them, because they are gradual and  
19 small and piecemeal in Ellettsville -- often occur  
20 before the property is developed.  Not always, but  
21 often.  And so a homeowner is buying a home in the  
22 town of Ellettsville.

23          Q       If Bloomington annexed area 1A in smaller  
24 chunks and piecemeal, would you be opposed to it?

25          A       Not necessarily.  It depends on a lot of

1 factors. There are a lot of factors.

2 Q Well, what are the factors?

3 A The residents themselves who are targeted  
4 for annexation, if it makes sense geographically, if  
5 they work with the property owners to bring them on  
6 board.

7 It really is up to those property owners to  
8 tell me and guide me as to whether they want to object  
9 and if they need our help or if they have questions we  
10 can help them with.

11 Q You said geographically. What makes it more  
12 appropriate geographically for you?

13 A I think that relates more to roadways,  
14 thinking I-69, things like that. So in other words, I  
15 think about it like the highway department thinks  
16 about it a little bit, because there's road inventory,  
17 and it's either a county road or a city road or a  
18 state road, and that's important for each highway and  
19 public works department.

20 So I think that's what I'm thinking about it  
21 in terms of geography. You wouldn't want to have a --  
22 you know, a piece of roadway run by the city in the  
23 middle of two county roads and, you -- you know, that  
24 kind of -- that kind of geographical logic.

25 Q The islands, areas 3, 4, and 5, are you



1     opposed to the City's annexation of those areas as  
2     well?

3             A     Yes.

4             Q     Do you think it's still inappropriate for  
5     the City to annex those islands involuntarily?

6             A     Yes, yes, I do.

7             Q     Is that just because it's involuntary?

8             A     Because it is involuntary, because I'm very  
9     familiar with people who live in those islands who  
10    cannot afford the significant tax impact of annexation  
11    on them personally.

12            The -- I can give you specific examples when  
13    I have gone out and talked to residents in those  
14    areas, but they are very much reflective of county  
15    living more than city living in terms of how people  
16    conduct their day-to-day lives. Especially, I think  
17    about annexation area 4 with that one.

18            Q     Are you opposed to the annexation of area 1A  
19    by the City if over 50 percent of the property owners  
20    agree to be annexed?

21            A     I think that's too much of a -- I don't  
22    know. I don't know.

23            Q     What I'm trying to get at is, do you believe  
24    it has to be 100 percent voluntary for the City to  
25    annex an area?

1           A     I think that would be the ideal. It might  
2 not happen, but I think that might be the ideal. I  
3 would like our state law to be different.

4           Q     Would you be -- so there's a lesser number  
5 than 100 percent where you think it would be  
6 acceptable for the City to annex an area?

7           A     I -- I don't know what that number is.

8           Q     Jumping back to the Ellettsville  
9 annexations, were the impact on county finances  
10 acceptable to the county from the Ellettsville  
11 annexations?

12          A     The -- I don't know what you mean by  
13 acceptable. It is what it is. It is -- yeah, I -- I  
14 don't know what to do with that word acceptable.  
15 Sorry.

16          Q     Did you think it was inappropriate?

17          A     Again, I'm not sure what to do with that  
18 word inappropriate. It was not significant. Does  
19 that help?

20          Q     Do you know -- do you recall what the impact  
21 was?

22          A     No, because it is small, piecemeal, and  
23 often predevelopment.

24          Q     Is Bloomington a good place to live?

25          A     I don't live in Bloomington. I used to, but

1 I don't anymore.

2 Q When did you live in Bloomington?

3 A 1993 to around '96.

4 Q Was it a good place to live then?

5 A It was fine.

6 Q You think it's -- so you're a county  
7 commissioner in Monroe County. Correct?

8 A Yes.

9 Q The largest community is the city of  
10 Bloomington. Correct?

11 A Right.

12 Q Do you believe it's a good place to live?

13 A I believe that some people like living in an  
14 urban area, a small -- it used to have a small-town  
15 feel. It doesn't really have that anymore, but people  
16 like living in a small city. Some people, like me,  
17 like being out in -- in the country a little bit, not  
18 -- and that I can be close to the city.

19 So I -- I think that there are, like every  
20 city and every town and every county in this country,  
21 there are problems, and there are great things about  
22 it. And the things I love about Bloomington may be  
23 different than the things someone else may love about  
24 Bloomington.

25 Q Do you think Bloomington is a good place to

1 start a business?

2 A It can be.

3 Q Are there times when it's not?

4 A It depends what kind of business, I would  
5 assume. And when you say Bloomington, I'm thinking  
6 city limits, just to clarify. So it can be, yes.

7 Q What about the greater Bloomington  
8 community?

9 A Yes, sure.

10 Q It is a good place to start a business?

11 A Sure.

12 Q Do you believe Bloomington is a good place  
13 to raise a family?

14 A I have not raised a family, so I don't know,  
15 but I believe that we have good schools. I believe  
16 that we have a lot of things to offer. And -- and in  
17 this sense, I'm thinking about the county as a whole,  
18 but I think the county as a whole is a great place to  
19 raise a family.

20 Q So you're willing to say the county is a  
21 great place to raise a family, but you're not willing  
22 to say Bloomington is a great place to raise a family?

23 A No, Bloomington -- Bloomington is as well.  
24 I think there are -- again, like every city, town, and  
25 county, there are great things about it, and there are

1 things that need to be worked on.

2 Q What are the things that need to be worked  
3 on?

4 A I think currently -- within the city? Are  
5 you -- is that your question?

6 Q Both city and county.

7 A I think with -- I think, within the city,  
8 the biggest thing right now has to do with balancing  
9 student population, student housing, with housing for  
10 people who have families or are starting families or  
11 are retiring. You know, where's that balance?

12 I -- I hear that a lot, and I also know that  
13 there -- there is concern about public safety and  
14 having enough officers in -- on the roads. And that's  
15 -- that's just city again for that.

16 We don't have those two issues in the  
17 county, but we do have concerns about protecting our  
18 environment, protecting our drinking water source for  
19 the whole area, for the region.

20 We have -- always have concerns about where  
21 development should go and where it shouldn't and where  
22 it should be denser and where it should be less dense,  
23 how to make better use of our airport for economic  
24 development. I can -- I can name so many things that  
25 occupy our minds and time as county commissioners.

1 Q Does the Bloomington fire department provide  
2 quality fire protection service?

3 A I believe so.

4 Q You understand they assist with Monroe  
5 County Fire Protection District from time to time as  
6 well?

7 A What I do know is that they have not yet --  
8 as far as I know, I have not been informed that there  
9 is an active efficient, sufficient mutual aid  
10 agreement between the Monroe County Fire Protection  
11 District and the City of Bloomington's fire  
12 department. I -- that would be something that needs  
13 to be addressed.

14 Q Are you familiar with circumstances where  
15 Bloomington Fire Department has responded to fires in  
16 the Monroe County Fire Protection District territory?

17 A Personally, no.

18 Q Okay. Does the Bloomington Police  
19 Department provide quality police protection?

20 A I believe that the officers who serve the  
21 Bloomington Police Department are good people on the  
22 whole who do a good job. They're just understaffed.

23 Q So I'm going to ask my question again. I  
24 understand you believe they're understaffed. Even  
25 with what you perceive to be understaffing issues, do

1 you believe they do a good job of providing police  
2 protection service, the department as a whole?

3 A I don't feel like I'm in a position to judge  
4 that, honestly. I don't know.

5 Q Do you know -- what do you base your belief  
6 that there is -- that they're understaffed on; what do  
7 you base that off of?

8 A I have attended and watched a number of city  
9 council meetings where this has been a topic of  
10 discussion for many years, especially since COVID.  
11 But if I remember correctly, I think it started before  
12 COVID. I might be wrong on that, but.

13 Q I mean, has the county commissioned any  
14 studies concerning police service?

15 A No, because we have a sheriff who was duly  
16 elected to serve our community with deputies, and the  
17 sheriff may or may not decide to do a study, but that  
18 is not up to the county commissioners to do.

19 Q Do you have any evidence of crimes occurring  
20 in Bloomington and not being responded to?

21 A I would not have that information.

22 Q So aside from what you have heard other  
23 people say in said council meetings, do you have any  
24 evidence supporting your belief that there is a  
25 staffing shortage in the Bloomington Police

1 Department?

2 A I base my understanding of the situation on  
3 the city council members discussing the issue about  
4 how to increase the number of officers and how to  
5 encourage them to stay on once they are hired.

6 Q Aside from that, any other evidence of  
7 policing not getting done that you're aware of?

8 A Officially, no. The public talking to me  
9 about it at various events, conversations, grocery  
10 store lines, you name it, I hear from people that they  
11 feel like the response time is slower.

12 They feel they are concerned about the  
13 number of officers who are available, and that would  
14 often lead them to say, "How can the City annex if we  
15 already don't have enough officers on hand?"

16 Q Do you know how many officers, at a given  
17 time, are patrolling within the city's boundaries, how  
18 many police officers?

19 A No, I do not.

20 Q Okay. Do you know how many sheriff's  
21 deputies are patrolling? And again, I'm talking about  
22 in the county.

23 A I do not. I know that number fluctuates  
24 depending on the day of the week and the time of day,  
25 but I do know that we are -- at last count, I think we



1 were -- we had three more openings in the sheriff's  
2 department, and they were -- they believed that they  
3 would be filled within a month or two.

4 Q Do you believe the response times from the  
5 county sheriff's department are appropriate?

6 A Yes, given the geography of the county, the  
7 amount of space to be covered in an emergency. And I  
8 do know that our response times have been fairly  
9 consistent over the last five years or so.

10 Q Have you ever -- have you personally ever  
11 reviewed and studied the City's response times?

12 A I have tried to get information on that, and  
13 it is very difficult to get that information. So I  
14 would say no.

15 Q Who did you try to get it from?

16 A I have data that dispatch -- I believe it  
17 came from dispatch. The chief deputy, Phil Parker,  
18 gave me some data sheets, but the issue is how the  
19 numbers are calculated, what they include, and what  
20 they don't include.

21 And it's difficult to follow that data.  
22 It's not something that's easily comprehensible; "It's  
23 two minutes longer, two minutes shorter." It's not.  
24 It's not like that. It's a -- it's a complex dataset  
25 that I'm still trying to grapple with.

1 Q You haven't had difficulty with the City  
2 giving you data, though?

3 A I got the data from Phil Parker. I didn't  
4 ask the City for the data. I haven't asked the City  
5 for that data.

6 Q Phil Parker, is he with the dispatch?

7 A I'm sorry. He is the chief deputy sheriff.

8 Q Okay. Understood.

9 A Yeah, so I didn't ask. I didn't ask the  
10 City. I didn't ask.

11 Q Didn't ask the City?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay. Thank you. Do you believe that the  
14 number of sheriff's deputies patrolling the county at  
15 a given time is an appropriate number for urban areas?

16 MR. BEGGS: Objection to form. Did you  
17 say urban areas?

18 MR. UNGER: Correct.

19 THE WITNESS: I -- I don't know what  
20 you mean by that. I'm sorry. Yeah, could you restate  
21 it, maybe?

22 BY MR. UNGER:

23 Q Do you understand that area 1A and 1B are  
24 urban areas?

25 A No, I do not understand that.

1 Q You don't think -- you don't believe they're  
2 urban?

3 A I think there are some parts of those areas  
4 -- let me -- let me get my map in my head visually. I  
5 believe there are parts of those areas that are more  
6 densely populated than others.

7 Q What's your definition of urbanization,  
8 urban area?

9 A It's -- it is about population density. I  
10 don't have a magical number in my head, but it is  
11 about population density, but there's also a quarry.  
12 That's not urban. So I -- you know, I -- I don't want  
13 to lump everything together and say 1A is urban. I  
14 don't think the whole of 1A is urban.

15 Q But you agree some portions of 1A are urban?

16 A Are more densely populated, yes.

17 Q And do you believe the ratio of sheriff's  
18 deputies that are covering the county, including those  
19 areas, is sufficient?

20 A That's a question for the sheriff and -- and  
21 the county council, which is the -- which is the  
22 fiscal body of the county which decides on the  
23 deputies we'll pay for. So not a question I have had  
24 to deal with since I left the county council.

25 Q Okay. So you don't have a position on it?

1           A     I have not heard any complaints. I will  
2 tell you that. That's my personal experience.

3           Q     Does the Bloomington street department do a  
4 good of maintaining the streets within the city?

5           A     I believe so. I haven't studied it. I  
6 think the one complaint I have heard this year is  
7 about not picking up leaves and having a lot of  
8 flooding as a result.

9           Q     Do you think the county street department  
10 does a good job of maintaining the streets --

11          A     They do a -- they do a great job.

12          Q     Okay. What do you base that off of?

13          A     My personal knowledge and experience and the  
14 fact that -- that the public works department of the  
15 county reports to the county commissioners. So that's  
16 -- we're involved in that every day. We have paved  
17 more roads in 2023 than we ever have.

18          Q     Do you believe the city parks department  
19 does a good job?

20          A     I believe so.

21          Q     Are there areas of interlocal cooperation  
22 between the City and the County?

23          A     Absolutely.

24          Q     Could you maybe explain to me what those  
25 are?

1           A     Sure. We have an interlocal agreement with  
2 the City regarding the animal shelter. We pay them  
3 based on the number of animals that are surrendered  
4 into the shelter that come from outside the city.

5           Q     The City maintains the shelter?

6           A     The City maintains the shelter.  
7 Ellettsville pays a little bit, and we pay the rest,  
8 and the City pays for the city. And I personally  
9 utilize that animal shelter to find great companions  
10 for my life, which is wonderful. We have the building  
11 department which the County operates, but the City  
12 utilizes. So --

13          Q     The City can -- does --

14          A     We have an agreement. We have an agreement  
15 with the City, and so building permits in the city go  
16 through the County's building department.

17          Q     Does the City compensate the County for  
18 that?

19          A     The -- there's a fee that's assessed for the  
20 permit, and that goes to the County.

21          Q     So the builders pay to operate the  
22 department?

23          A     Absolutely, but we -- as much as possible,  
24 that's what we want.

25          Q     Understood.

1           A       I know that there -- and I cannot give you  
2           specifics, but I know that there are ongoing  
3           agreements between the city streets department or  
4           public works -- I'm never sure what to call it -- and  
5           our public works highway department.

6                    They -- we have agreements with them all the  
7           time regarding things like snowplowing, so you're not  
8           -- you know, one is not picking up the plow, and then  
9           the other one has to come by and drop their plow.

10                   They -- they work out the streets so that,  
11           you know, "Hey, you're over here. Finish this one for  
12           us, and we will do yours over here." So there are  
13           those kind of ongoing agreements that work out really  
14           well.

15           Q       Dispatch?

16           A       Dispatch is another one, yeah.

17           Q       How is dispatch handled?

18           A       Gosh, you know, here's the thing. I have  
19           been in -- been at the County so long, you know, like  
20           three iterations of different ways dispatch has  
21           worked.

22                    We have a ongoing agreement with the City,  
23           and I will put it this way. The City manages the  
24           personnel side, and we manage -- we pay for -- we pay  
25           for the -- the software side, I believe.

1 I might be wrong about that even to this  
2 day, but so that, it is a -- the PSAP LIT, the public  
3 safety answering point LIT. Local income tax is  
4 collected by the County, and the dispatch has --  
5 center has a budget that they work off of for their  
6 personnel.

7 But there is a board, and the board is what  
8 -- where the real cooperation, day-to-day work takes  
9 place, especially in executive committee, which is  
10 City and County together, fire protection district,  
11 fire department for the city, et cetera. That's where  
12 the real cooperation happens.

13 Q The convention center, is there new  
14 interlocal there?

15 A That's another good example.

16 Q Is that more recent?

17 A Yes, it is more recent. It's -- although,  
18 it's been four years. Yes, it is more recent, and  
19 that is one where there's a food and beverage tax.  
20 There is a capital --

21 Q Who's the -- I'm sorry. Whose food and  
22 beverage tax is it?

23 A It is a food and beverage tax that every  
24 restaurant and bar collects within the county. The  
25 City's food and beverage tax revenue, which is the

1 vast majority, is within the city limits.

2 Of course, the bars and restaurants' goes to  
3 the City's coffers, as it were. The County's go  
4 elsewhere. The County can use our food and beverage  
5 proceeds for economic development and tourist  
6 development. The City will use theirs for the  
7 convention center.

8 So it's our convention center. We're adding  
9 onto it. We're remodeling it with American Rescue  
10 Plan Act dollars as it stands now. The City is  
11 putting in that food and beverage money to expand it,  
12 a hotel, all of that.

13 So we have a capital improvement board which  
14 is half City, half County exactly, and then they have  
15 picked a seventh member. We just finished the  
16 memoranda of understanding to move forward with  
17 bonding opportunities for the City to bond off of  
18 their food and beverage dollars.

19 Q It's fairly more recent that the City agreed  
20 to contribute their food and beverage dollars. Is  
21 that correct?

22 A No, no, that's been understood all along.  
23 The sticking point has typically been about how -- how  
24 it would be designed and who decides the design and  
25 the location of the buildings, because there's



1 property that the County owns, property that the City  
2 owns that's involved here.

3 Q When did the city council approve using its  
4 food and beverage tax for the convention center?

5 A I don't know what year that was. I don't  
6 remember what year that was.

7 Q I mean, is that within the last two years?

8 A No, it's been longer ago. Yeah, it's been a  
9 while.

10 Q Who owns the convention center?

11 A Currently, the County.

12 Q Okay. Does the City own the parking lot?

13 A They own a piece of the parking lot south of  
14 the current convention center. The County also owns  
15 that big, empty lot across the street that you see out  
16 your window here at this office. And the City now  
17 owns another piece of property that's also outside  
18 this building that -- that they own, so.

19 Q In your time since you have been a  
20 commissioner, county council, did the City also have  
21 an interlocal agreement with the County concerning  
22 planning?

23 A The only thing I can say about that with any  
24 certainty -- so I have been on the planning commission  
25 since 2009, and what I can say with certainty is we

1 have -- we have, since I have been on the planning  
2 commission, have had to deal with city zoning in some  
3 parts of our community -- parts of the county outside  
4 the city because of the Areas Intended For Annexation  
5 agreement, but that agreement was ended years ago by  
6 the mayor, Kruzan.

7 So but we still have that lingering impact  
8 of having to know not just our county zones but also  
9 city zones whenever we deal with something with some  
10 of the properties that have come up that are closer to  
11 the city limits. So it's -- it's very -- if planning  
12 weren't complicated enough, you know, it -- it made it  
13 more complicated.

14 Q It affects both of you; it affects both the  
15 City and the County, the planning?

16 A Sure, sure.

17 Q You mentioned the AIFA, Areas Intended For  
18 Annexation?

19 A Right.

20 Q What's your understanding about that  
21 agreement?

22 A The -- the mayor, I believe it was Mayor  
23 Kruzan, we -- it didn't get renewed.

24 Q Were you a county commissioner at that time?

25 A I don't think so. I may have. I don't

1 remember what year that was.

2 Q Do you know what the intent was of the AIFA  
3 area?

4 A The AIFA area set aside areas in the county  
5 that the City said they intended to annex at some  
6 point in the future. The idea was to -- to make those  
7 -- that part of the county look more like the city as  
8 it developed so that when it was annexed -- for  
9 example, city streets, state -- City codes for city  
10 design requirements for streets were, especially at  
11 that time when there was AIFA, were very different  
12 than the County's.

13 The County's are now not so different from  
14 the City's, but -- but you know, road width, gutter,  
15 sewer, you know, that kind of thing --

16 Q They were installed to city standards at  
17 that time?

18 A Yeah, that's what they were trying to do.  
19 They were trying to make it look like the city before  
20 it was the city.

21 Q How would you describe the relationship  
22 between the City and the commissioners under the  
23 Hamilton administration?

24 A Poor.

25 Q Why do you --

1           A     I think there was a -- I think there were  
2 problems in communication. I think there was a lot of  
3 difficulties regarding communication. I think -- I  
4 think that's the root of the problem, and the  
5 inability to compromise, work together, a  
6 my-way-or-the-highway kind of attitude.

7                     Government takes a lot of collaboration, and  
8 it takes a lot of compromise. You never get what you  
9 want, ever, and that's -- and that's something that I  
10 learned pretty quickly as a commissioner, and I hope  
11 others learn it when they join local government.

12           Q     Aside from the annexation, are there other  
13 things in particular that you think were problematic  
14 for that relationship?

15           A     I -- it was difficult to work through the  
16 convention center issues. Certainly, that took way  
17 longer than it should have.

18           Q     What issues?

19           A     Who designs, who decides, who's going to  
20 manage, you know, who's going to manage the  
21 construction project, yeah.

22           Q     Anything else in particular besides  
23 convention center?

24           A     I'm sure I could think of something if I had  
25 a moment. Nothing really comes to mind right now.

1           Q       How would you describe the relationship with  
2 the commissioners now and the City under the Thomson  
3 administration?

4           A       I feel like we have turned a page. It -- it  
5 reminds me of -- it reminds me of more of the days  
6 when Mayor Kruzan was mayor. That was when I first  
7 started in county government.

8                   And we don't always agree, but you figure  
9 out a way to make things happen. There is typically  
10 an agreement on a purpose and a goal, not necessarily  
11 on the details. Well, you work the details out. You  
12 give and take. You make it happen.

13                   Better communications, more open  
14 communications, that's my sense of it three months in,  
15 not even three months in. But it's good. It's a good  
16 start. I'm happy. It's -- it's optimistic.

17           Q       Do you want to take a break? You all right  
18 taking a break?

19           A       Sure.

20                   THE REPORTER: All right. Off the  
21 record at 2:14 p.m.

22                   (Off the record.)

23                   THE REPORTER: We're now back on the  
24 record at 2:22 p.m.

25           //

1 BY MR. UNGER:

2 Q Besides the City's annexations -- I know we  
3 talked a little bit about Ellettsville -- have you  
4 been involved with any other annexations anywhere?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay. Have you studied any other  
7 annexations?

8 A I wouldn't say studied. I have looked at  
9 other state laws, how they operate, especially as  
10 Indiana legislators propose changes to our state laws.  
11 I have looked to see what other states did. So I  
12 wouldn't call that really studying, but I have -- I  
13 have read a little bit on it.

14 Q Did you study any other Indiana annexations,  
15 any other municipality's annexations?

16 A No, no.

17 Q Okay. Have you calculated the residential  
18 population of area 1A or 1B?

19 A No, that's probably in the report.

20 Q What report?

21 A Baker Tilly, but I don't -- but we didn't --  
22 I don't think they separated out separate areas, so  
23 that's why I'm saying no.

24 Q Any other report besides the Baker Tilly  
25 report that you're aware of?

1           A       There's the Reedy report that the City  
2 commissioned, and there were multiple versions of it.

3           Q       And nothing else, though, with respect to  
4 population that you're aware of?

5           A       I -- we have census-tracked information, but  
6 that doesn't fit the same boundaries as annexation  
7 areas, so.

8           Q       Have you calculated the --

9           A       No, that's not my job, no.

10          Q       Okay. Have you calculated what percentage  
11 of area 1A or 1B is subdivided?

12          A       Can you rephrase that question? Because  
13 unless you have got a piece of land that's 40 acres or  
14 larger, it's been subdivided at some point. So I  
15 don't really know what you mean by subdivided.

16          Q       Have you done any calculation of subdivision  
17 or a percentage subdivided for each area depending on  
18 any definition of subdivision?

19          A       I'm trying to understand. I'm not trying to  
20 be difficult. I'm trying to understand the question.  
21 I'm sorry.

22          Q       Have you analyzed at all to what extent  
23 area 1A and 1B is subdivided?

24          A       I have looked at the lot sizes, because  
25 there are zoning proposals in our comprehensive

1 development ordinance that we're working on right now,  
2 and that includes consideration of the zoning, and the  
3 zoning for residential areas relates to minimum lot  
4 size. So in that extent, yes.

5 Q I mean, with respect to the annexation, have  
6 you tried to calculate what percentage of these areas  
7 are --

8 A No.

9 Q Okay. What do you believe to be the  
10 significant economic impacts of the annexation of  
11 area 1A and 1B?

12 A There are multiple impacts. I don't know if  
13 you mean for individuals or if you mean for the  
14 County. I could address both.

15 Q Let's -- County first.

16 A Okay. So the impact on the County is that  
17 we would lose revenue on the local income tax side on  
18 the property tax. We would also lose a stormwater  
19 fee, and we would lose motor vehicle highway  
20 allocations for any roads that become City inventory  
21 instead of County inventory.

22 I know that, just looking at 1A and 1B,  
23 probably 800,000 to a million dollars in MVH is  
24 probably a good ballpark. Again, we commissioned the  
25 Baker Tilly study, but we did not separate out



1 different annexation areas.

2 We asked them to look at all of them,  
3 because all of them are on the table at the time. So  
4 in hindsight, I wish I had asked for that separate  
5 calculation.

6 That's my -- you know, that's something I  
7 have learned, but -- but that local income tax is --  
8 is going to impact. Now, in terms of property tax,  
9 the County still collects its property tax. The City  
10 takes additional tax on top of it.

11 Now, what happens is, especially when you  
12 have people who are fixed income, moderate income, low  
13 income, in owner-occupied housing, you are going to  
14 have more and more of the circuit breaker coming into  
15 play where they cannot spend more than 1 percent of  
16 their home value on taxes.

17 When that circuit breaker happens, because  
18 there has now been -- had a city tax added to their  
19 property tax bill, you impact the Township tax base;  
20 you impact the County's tax base. All of those things  
21 impact the operation of county government, township  
22 government.

23 Township government serves all residents of  
24 the township whether they live in the city or not.  
25 The County serves all residents of the county whether

1 they live in the city or not.

2 We have to provide an assessor, an auditor,  
3 a treasurer, a surveyor, commissioners council, so  
4 many of our functions, especially, and most  
5 importantly, on criminal justice side, for a jail,  
6 courts, prosecutor, public defender, et cetera,  
7 community corrections, probation.

8 That cost is high, and it's fixed. It's not  
9 -- in the sense that it doesn't matter how many people  
10 live in the city versus the county, it's the county as  
11 a whole. That's the service we would have to provide,  
12 and if we start hitting a lot of circuit breakers,  
13 that means other people's property taxes are going to  
14 go up.

15 But -- but most importantly, it means we're  
16 going to have to cut services from what people have  
17 come to expect from Monroe County, and that's a very  
18 hard pill for me to swallow as a public servant.

19 And I do know that my conversations with  
20 people in the areas intended for annexation, across  
21 all of them, a lot of conversations had to do with  
22 understanding what the tax impact would be on their  
23 personal property tax for their residence, and people  
24 -- we had public listening sessions.

25 We had Baker Tilly explain their report to

1 the public, because we had a Reedy report, and Baker  
2 Tilly found different information and highlighted that  
3 in their report.

4 We had public listening sessions, and  
5 there's a -- there was a lot of fear and a lot of  
6 concerns that people were going to lose their homes,  
7 because they could not afford what the new taxes would  
8 be.

9 There's also a fiscal impact on things like  
10 the fire protection district and the school  
11 corporation and the library all because of the circuit  
12 breaker. So those are again services people expect to  
13 have that may now be compromised if there is a  
14 large-scale annexation, but the individual versus the  
15 County are two different things.

16 Q Is the County's current budget sufficient to  
17 fund county services currently?

18 A Yes.

19 Q The -- the financial impact to the County  
20 that you're mentioning, stormwater, MVH, LIT, circuit  
21 breaker, do those -- does your understanding of those  
22 come from anything other than the Baker Tilly report?

23 A It was the Baker Tilly report. And -- and  
24 when annexation was first proposed, we had another  
25 study done by Financial Services Group, FSG, and there

1 was some information missing.

2 So I was -- I was glad that we did the Baker  
3 Tilly as a second report, especially once we had the  
4 Reedy report. So Reedy, Baker Tilly, were really the  
5 key.

6 Q Okay. The FSG report, had that ever been  
7 updated at all?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay. You haven't had any discussions with  
10 the authors of that since?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay. So I just want to make sure. Besides  
13 the Reedy and the Baker Tilly report, is there  
14 anything else that you rely on for purposes of  
15 determining what the financial impact is to the  
16 county?

17 A Well, I -- I have had conversations with  
18 various department heads, specifically, you know, to  
19 talk to Lisa Ridge and say, you know, "How much do you  
20 think we're going to lose here in terms of inventory,"  
21 because she knows that better than I would.

22 Q Who is Lisa Ridge?

23 A Lisa Ridge is our highway director. So you  
24 know, those -- those kinds of conversations. I think  
25 there would be a cut in the number of sheriff's

1 deputies, right, if there's fewer residents outside  
2 the city.

3 I don't know what that would be, and that  
4 would be up to the sheriff to calculate. So my focus  
5 has really been on the side of county government where  
6 the commissioners are responsible.

7 Q I mean, the employees you're talking about,  
8 they didn't do their own calculation of what the  
9 financial impact would be other than look at what the  
10 Baker Tilly report said and tried to account for that?

11 A Right. You know, they -- they can look at  
12 the number of properties and calculate stormwater,  
13 right, how much stormwater fee we lose, for example.  
14 So it's -- it's sort of the back-of-the-envelope kind  
15 of ballpark guessing.

16 Q Who at Baker Tilly prepared the report?

17 A I do not remember their names, but I know  
18 their names are on the report. I can picture them in  
19 my mind, but I do not remember their names.

20 Q Did you do anything to help prepare the  
21 report?

22 A No, we -- we just gave them the parameters.

23 Q I believe we're on Exhibit 52, is the next  
24 number that we're using.

25 //

1 (Exhibit 52 was marked for  
2 identification.)

3 A I feel like I have missed so much. Lordy,  
4 I'm going to have to get my glasses out. Do I need to  
5 get my glasses out? I need to get my glasses.

6 Q Yeah, probably. We can go off the record  
7 while you do that.

8 THE REPORTER: All right. Off the  
9 record at 2:34 p.m.

10 (Off the record.)

11 THE REPORTER: We are now back on the  
12 record at 2:34 p.m.

13 BY MR. UNGER:

14 Q So I have marked a document as Exhibit 52.  
15 Do you understand this to be the Baker Tilly report  
16 that we have been discussing?

17 A Yes, yes.

18 Q Has this report been updated at all?

19 A No.

20 Q Have you had any conversations with anyone  
21 at Baker Tilly recently about the report?

22 A No.

23 Q So I'm clear, can you show me, in the Baker  
24 Tilly report, what portions you rely on for your  
25 understanding of the impact to the County? And maybe

1 if I help, direct you to page 8, you might look at  
2 that.

3 A Right. I -- while their focus has been and  
4 often was on the information on page 8, for residents,  
5 our focus was on what their tax bills would look like  
6 and how they would be different.

7 And we put that calculation that's on this  
8 paperwork into our website so people could actually  
9 enter their own current property tax, and they could  
10 get an estimate back of what their new property tax  
11 would be. I think that was the best service we  
12 offered to our residents, because Reedy didn't have  
13 that.

14 Yes, we do have information here about  
15 stormwater, TIF revenue, gasoline wheel tax, local  
16 tax, local income tax, the impact of circuit breakers,  
17 but we also have to consider the fact that even though  
18 we are not the government of Ellettsville and  
19 Stinesville, that they have a small impact.

20 But we have an impact on the schools, the  
21 school corporations, the library. The townships, each  
22 of the townships has -- has an impact, and in each  
23 case, somebody has to provide that service. And the  
24 solid waste district would have an impact. The fire  
25 protection district would have an impact. And this is

1 going to be an annual impact.

2 Q So I want to -- with respect to the County,  
3 on page 8, it shows, if I'm reading the report  
4 correctly, there's a line that said net revenue impact  
5 in year 1, you know, 1.33 million; in year 2, 2.737  
6 million. Do you see that?

7 A Mm-hmm.

8 Q Is that what you based your estimated impact  
9 to the County on?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. Is it your understanding that the  
12 report projects that the County will have to cut their  
13 budget by \$2.7 million in year 2?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you believe, as a result of annexation,  
16 that the County will have to make cuts to services?

17 A Yes.

18 Q There are some services that the County no  
19 longer has to provide. You understand that -- in the  
20 annexation area?

21 A Right, right.

22 Q Street and road maintenance, for example,  
23 and --

24 A Right. Stormwater.

25 Q In addition, above and beyond those services



1 that the City takes over, do you believe the County  
2 will have to make additional cuts?

3 A Yes, I believe the County will be in a  
4 position of having to make additional cuts, because I  
5 think that, you know, this is only a two-year map  
6 here.

7 You have to remember this is every year and  
8 that that circuit breaker, I think -- I think, is  
9 going to become an even bigger problem over time, not  
10 less of a problem over time.

11 And that is directly going to impact every  
12 single taxing unit, including the County, and it's not  
13 just you have fewer deputies; it's okay. But this is  
14 where, now, you have to figure out where you're making  
15 other cuts.

16 Q So it's your understanding, because of the  
17 circuit breaker growth, the City will lose more and  
18 more money every -- or I'm sorry -- the County will  
19 lose more and more money every year?

20 A Mm-hmm.

21 Q Was that --

22 A Yes. Thank you.

23 Q Thank you. Has the County done any studies  
24 on cuts that would need to be made?

25 A When annexation was first proposed, we had a

1 number of meetings with our department heads. And  
2 this is before the Baker Tilly report, so this is at  
3 the very beginning. And we were talking through with  
4 the council, because the council makes that final  
5 decision about where those cuts would be.

6 Q And so at that time, all the department  
7 heads believed they would need to make budget cuts as  
8 a result of the annexation?

9 A I wouldn't say all the department heads. I  
10 mean, we do have a department of weights and measures  
11 that is one person. So yeah, no, we wouldn't be  
12 cutting that, and of course, they work through the  
13 whole county.

14 So not every -- not every department, but  
15 certainly, that -- that could be -- impact a number of  
16 departments in -- in ways that they may not have  
17 anticipated.

18 Q But are there no reports or studies on --

19 A No, it was -- it was -- no.

20 Q Okay. Thank you. Do you know what the  
21 County's current cash reserves are?

22 A If I was on the council, I could tell you.  
23 I don't know right offhand.

24 Q Do you understand it to be over \$60 million?

25 A I don't know.

1           Q     If it is over \$60 million, do you think the  
2 County would still need to make cuts as a result of  
3 the annexation?

4           A     Yes, because I -- to say -- I think -- I  
5 think the issue is this. When you say reserves, I'm  
6 thinking about the rainy day fund. That's the only  
7 fund I think of as a savings account for the County.

8                     Reserves are a lot of things. There is  
9 money sitting in reserves that's earmarked for other  
10 things and bonds money. So I'm just thinking in terms  
11 of the rainy day account, which is the County savings  
12 account. I know that we don't have that much in  
13 there, and I -- I know Ellettsville's, right now, is  
14 -- is under a million.

15                     So I know that -- that we don't have that  
16 much in ours, but no matter what, we would, because  
17 you always want to have money in your rainy day  
18 account, just like you want to have in a savings  
19 account at home.

20                     And the -- the -- again, the problem with --  
21 the problem with this report is that it's for all the  
22 annexation areas. The problem with everything that we  
23 studied, it's for all the annexation areas.

24                     I think we -- we don't have anything that  
25 delineates 1A and 1B, and I -- and I don't think that

1 -- I think I'm more worried about -- and maybe that's  
2 incorrect, but I, as a public servant, I'm more  
3 worried about the individual who's afraid of losing  
4 their home due to the inability to pay taxes than I am  
5 about county government having to shape, reshape,  
6 revise how we do business to accommodate.

7 Q Is it fair to say, annexation or no  
8 annexation, the County will continue providing  
9 services to county residents?

10 A The County has to continue providing service  
11 to residents, and -- and obviously, the most expensive  
12 one of those is criminal justice. And we do provide  
13 that, because we have a unified court system for  
14 everyone.

15 Q Do you -- what do you believe to be an  
16 adequate cash reserve balance for the County?

17 A The County should have enough cash reserves  
18 so that if there is an emergency, so that if something  
19 happens, the world is burning, that we can continue to  
20 operate.

21 There is a range of -- of thought on whether  
22 that should be a 1-year amount of money or an 18-month  
23 amount of money to actually manage to fund County  
24 operations.

25 Q What's your thought?

1           A       I would always rather have 18 months, but at  
2 the same time, if there's something out there that we  
3 can do for residents now to make their lives better,  
4 then sometimes it's okay to go down to 12 months, but  
5 I'm not the county council.

6           Q       What evidence do you have aside from the  
7 Baker Tilly report and the calculations that are  
8 available there or the Reedy report? Do you have any  
9 evidence of the financial impact on landowners or  
10 residents in the annexation territories?

11          A       And that's when you really get into personal  
12 knowledge and experience. It's, you know, knocking on  
13 people's doors and talking to them about it.

14                   It's having the public meeting and having  
15 folks come in and ask questions of Baker Tilly, having  
16 Baker Tilly explain how to calculate your new tax rate  
17 based on the 2021 tax bill, and -- and hearing that  
18 fear in their voices, "I don't know how I'm going to  
19 be able to pay for this." And that's -- that's  
20 significant. It's -- it is very significant.

21          Q       You understand annexation adds a layer of  
22 tax, municipal tax layer?

23          A       Sure.

24          Q       So property taxes will go up. Is there a  
25 figure that you believe is an appropriate increase in

1 property taxes?

2 A I -- I wouldn't hazard to guess, because if  
3 -- if you were in a county that was a -- a county  
4 resident, and a city had a lower tax rate than another  
5 city, then your taxes would be lower. I -- it's up to  
6 the City to figure out what their taxes are going to  
7 be and their budget is going to be.

8 Q Do you have any other data or evidence of  
9 financial impact to -- aside from what people have  
10 told you in meetings, any other data, specific reports  
11 you're aware of?

12 A No, I just would say that I know that in  
13 conversations with the fire protection district, some  
14 board members there, in conversations with township  
15 trustees especially, that there is a real concern  
16 about their ability to make ends meet, because they  
17 are -- they are the providers of poor relief in our  
18 county, and they're vital. So if they can't do it,  
19 somebody has to do it.

20 Q Are you familiar with the City's tax rate?

21 A No, not -- no. Outside of the Reedy report,  
22 no.

23 Q What do you believe the average impact to be  
24 on property owners as a result of the annexation?

25 A Well, that is in -- I believe that was in

1 the Baker Tilly report, if I'm not mistaken, or it may  
2 be that we ran some figures.

3 There's one in here that's already -- page2,  
4 there's your 49.75 percent increase, which may not  
5 seem like a lot to folks who are working and making  
6 money and earning money but is a lot to somebody on a  
7 fixed income. So that's -- that's an example right  
8 there.

9 Q So you don't -- you agree it's not always a  
10 significant financial impact?

11 A I think you would have to run commercial  
12 enterprises and residential enterprises. And you  
13 know, commercial enterprises tend to be better at  
14 absorbing those kinds of percentages, because they can  
15 raise prices and find ways to make money as business  
16 owners, but it's harder for somebody on a fixed income  
17 to do that.

18 Q Have you reviewed any personal financial  
19 information of any landowners, resident, or any  
20 business?

21 A No.

22 Q If the County netted 10 million more dollars  
23 a year in its budget, in its coffers, than was  
24 estimated for purpose of the Baker Tilly report, would  
25 that change your opinion with respect to the impact on

1 the County?

2 MR. BEGGS: I'm going to object to the  
3 foundation. Object to the form. Did you say if the  
4 county netted \$10 million in its coffers?

5 MR. UNGER: Additionally, yes.

6 MR. BEGGS: In addition to what?

7 MR. UNGER: In addition to the current  
8 funds that the County has.

9 MR. MCNEIL: Than were estimated in the  
10 Baker Tilly report.

11 THE WITNESS: So -- okay. So you want  
12 me to imagine a situation where, following annexation,  
13 the County actually gets increased taxes into -- as a  
14 result of annexation?

15 BY MR. UNGER:

16 Q No, let me ask it again.

17 A Yeah, I'm -- I'm struggling with it.

18 Q Your understanding, again, of the Baker  
19 Tilly report is the County will lose roughly  
20 \$2.7 million a year. Right? We have established  
21 that.

22 If instead of losing \$2.7 million a year,  
23 the County netted an additional \$10 million more than  
24 was estimated for purposes of the Baker Tilly report,  
25 would that change your opinion?



1           A       To me, that's a question about, you know,  
2       "Hey, if you put a horn on a horse, is it a unicorn?"  
3       I don't know. I -- I don't know how that could even  
4       happen.

5                    My -- my opinion of annexation is more  
6       focused on the impact of -- on residents who lose  
7       homes because they cannot afford the taxes, and that's  
8       been my bigger concern all along.

9                    Yes, I have concerns about County  
10      departments, County financials, County budgets, you  
11      know, how we absorb a loss, how we manage that, you  
12      know, who loses their job, but my -- my bigger concern  
13      is the significant financial impact on the residents  
14      in the annexation areas, because their lives are going  
15      to change in a big way.

16            Q       Do you think if the County netted \$8 million  
17      more a year in tax revenue than what was estimated at  
18      the time of the Baker Tilly report, the County would  
19      still need to make cuts?

20                    MR. BEGGS: Object to form and  
21      foundation.

22            A       I -- I can't answer that, because I don't  
23      know how that could happen. It's too -- too much  
24      fantasy for my -- for me to answer.

25            Q       Did you oppose the adoption of an economic

1 development LIT in Monroe County?

2 A I oppose the way that it's done. And again,  
3 it followed state law, but we live in a -- in a  
4 situation where, because of something called the tax  
5 council, the City of Bloomington, without the voters  
6 of Monroe County who live outside the City of  
7 Bloomington, has been making decisions about tax that  
8 has impacted every county resident, and I find that  
9 abhorrent.

10 That is a -- that is a structural issue.  
11 It's not -- I'm not mad at the city council. It's the  
12 state that allows that to happen. I have concerns  
13 about insuring that we do not overtax our county  
14 residents, no matter where they live, city or county.

15 And if we're building a jail, we are going  
16 to be looking at a local income tax to pay for a jail,  
17 and there is a point where we cannot collect anymore  
18 taxes from the people of Monroe County, and I fear  
19 that we are getting to that point.

20 Q Do you believe the economic development LIT  
21 was an overtax of county residents?

22 MR. BEGGS: Object to the form of the  
23 question. Object to the foundation.

24 A I'm not sure how to answer that. I -- I --  
25 I'm not sure what information I can give you that

1 you're looking for. So I think -- I think any tax has  
2 to be taken very seriously, because it is a tax on  
3 income. And what are we providing residents in return  
4 for that money?

5 BY MR. UNGER:

6 Q Do you know how much additional revenue the  
7 economic development LIT generates for Monroe County?

8 A I don't. I don't want to say, because I --  
9 I'm not sure. I don't. I'm not sure of that number.

10 Q Does the County intend to spend that money  
11 and use it?

12 A Yes.

13 Q No intention of returning it to the  
14 taxpayers?

15 A How would you do that?

16 Q I'm asking you.

17 A I don't know. How would you do that?

18 Q If there was a way to do it, would you  
19 support that?

20 A I -- I would, but that's a council -- this  
21 is a council question.

22 Q When was it adopted?

23 A I'm not sure.

24 Q Can you -- within the last couple of years?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. Since 2021?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Yeah. What other LITs, local income taxes,  
4 have been adopted for Monroe County?

5 A There is a -- well, there's the PSAP, which  
6 we have already talked about, the public safety  
7 answering point dispatch. There is a juvenile LIT.  
8 There is a general LIT, I believe.

9 Q What's the juvenile LIT?

10 A The juvenile LIT is for Juvenile Probation  
11 Youth Service Bureau, so.

12 Q Any others?

13 A Not that I can think of, but I'm sure there  
14 are.

15 Q Okay. Were you opposed to either of those  
16 LITs when they were adopted?

17 A No.

18 MR. UNGER: Exhibit 28, is that the --

19 MR. MCNEIL: Interrogatories.

20 MR. UNGER: Yeah. Do you need a copy,  
21 Bill, of the interrogatories?

22 MR. BEGGS: You said 28. Right?

23 MR. UNGER: Yeah.

24 MR. BEGGS: Thank you.

25 MR. COCKERILL: I will take one.

1 MR. UNGER: You want a copy, Jeff?

2 MR. COCKERILL: Yes.

3 BY MR. UNGER:

4 Q I handed you what's previously been marked  
5 as Exhibit 28, which is the County Residents Against  
6 Annexation's supplemental answers to the City of  
7 Bloomington's interrogatories. Have you ever seen  
8 this before?

9 (Exhibit 28 was previously marked for  
10 identification.)

11 A I may have. I may have.

12 Q Recently?

13 A I don't know. There -- there are so many  
14 documents relating to this case. And you know, when I  
15 have looked at my case, I will see them sometimes, and  
16 I don't know one from another, necessarily, so I -- I  
17 won't be able to say.

18 Q I'm going to have you turn to page 5. And  
19 this is -- so you understand, the City asks written  
20 questions to County Residents Against Annexation, and  
21 then they respond to them in writing.

22 If you look down on -- if you actually turn  
23 to page 6, so this is a question related to equitable  
24 terms and conditions relating to the annexation. And  
25 if you turn to page 6 --

1           A       I'm not sure what's meant by equitable terms  
2 and conditions, so I will leave that for that. Okay.

3           Q       About halfway down the page, do you see your  
4 name?

5           A       Mm-hmm.

6           Q       "Julie Thomas is anticipated to provide  
7 testimony regarding the lack of equitable provision of  
8 transit service and other infrastructure to areas 1A  
9 and 1B if annexation proceeds." What is the lack of  
10 equitable provision of transit service?

11          A       Well, this -- this relates to issues  
12 regarding -- there is Bloomington transit. There is  
13 rural transit. Rural transit serves multiple  
14 counties.

15                   Bloomington transit is funded partially by  
16 federal dollars, partially by the economic development  
17 income tax. That was more capital purchasing but also  
18 by property tax owner -- property taxpayers in the  
19 city of Bloomington, property owners in the city of  
20 Bloomington.

21                   So this is -- the current issue we're having  
22 relates to the fact that the federal government has  
23 now said that some parts of the county outside of the  
24 city are indeed densely populated.

25                   And as a result, rural transit cannot serve

1     them, because rural transit is USDA funded and  
2     intended for rural residents. So the question is, how  
3     do you provide bus service to people in Ellettsville?  
4     How do you provide bus service to people who live in  
5     Unionville?

6             And what happens is the federal government  
7     provides funding to Bloomington transit to serve all  
8     of the densely populated areas in the county, whether  
9     they're in the city or not, and the City does not  
10    share those with rural transit.

11            So we have cobbled together service for  
12    Ellettsville and other more-densely populated parts of  
13    the county through the end of -- well, through March.  
14    We hope to cobble something together to the end of the  
15    year, and at some point, we're going to have to figure  
16    something out.

17            But the City is receiving money that it is  
18    -- for the services that is not being shared with us  
19    as we try to provide service.

20            Q     So your concern is with respect to the way  
21    in which cities share funding currently to serve dense  
22    areas outside of the city limits?

23            A     Right, with federal funds. Right. It's the  
24    federal funds. Right. So this is -- it's a current  
25    issue. So it is a current issue.

1           Q     Okay.  Is there anything else?  I just want  
2     to make sure I understand completely what's meant by  
3     this provision.  Is there anything else with respect  
4     to the equitable provision of transit service that you  
5     would be talking about here?

6           A     Regarding transit, can't think of anything  
7     right now, but I don't have notes with me either, so.

8           Q     What about other infrastructure; what's that  
9     talking about, the lack of equitable provision of  
10    other infrastructure?  That's the way I'm reading it,  
11    so I just want to understand what that means.

12          A     You know, I think this is a lot.  For me,  
13    this -- this relates mainly to the fact that we have  
14    the offer sometimes, and other times not, of sewer  
15    service.

16                    But really, that's a benefit to the City  
17    sewer district, not, you know, that we have other ways  
18    of ensuring that we have sewer service on a piece of  
19    property that's being development.  It is --

20          Q     You're talking about sewer service outside  
21    of the City's boundaries when you're talking about  
22    that?

23          A     Right, right.  I mean, that's -- cities  
24    don't provide sewer service out of the goodness of  
25    their heart.  They just don't.  They do that because



1 it will help their line of revenue.

2 In other words, it will cost them less to  
3 provide more service than they're going to gain in  
4 fees and -- and taxes. I don't think -- I think that  
5 there are concerns for -- and I just want to make sure  
6 that I'm -- I'm taking a moment here.

7 I'm taking a beat here, because I want to  
8 make sure that I am focused on the correct aspect here  
9 of equitable terms and conditions. I want to make  
10 sure that I understand the range of this question.

11 Q Take your time. The question is on page 5  
12 if you want to review it.

13 THE WITNESS: I think I would ask who  
14 at this table will provide a explanation of the  
15 failure to include equitable terms and conditions. Is  
16 there somebody at this table who will define it so  
17 that we're all on the same page?

18 BY MR. UNGER:

19 Q No, I think you're the one that has to  
20 answer the questions and stuff, and I will try to help  
21 you. Let's try to help through it.

22 So it says that the annexation ordinances  
23 fail to include equitable terms and conditions as  
24 required by a statute, according to the question. Are  
25 you aware of any equitable terms and conditions that

1 the annexation ordinance fails to include that you  
2 believe they should include?

3 A Again, I -- I need some clarity about what  
4 that means in terms of equitable -- equitable terms.  
5 What does that mean? Does that mean between city and  
6 county residents?

7 Q It means -- it says here you're going to  
8 testify about equitable terms and conditions, the lack  
9 of equitable terms and conditions. What is that to  
10 you?

11 A To me -- to me, that is about the concerns I  
12 have regarding the City's ability to actually provide  
13 service to these areas, because there are so many  
14 areas, that it is a -- it is telling that the last  
15 annexation areas still do not have sufficient services  
16 based on what they were promised years ago.

17 And the concern is -- is that there are some  
18 very interesting aspects of annexing. For example, in  
19 1A, you have people who are covered currently by the  
20 fire protection district who would remain protected by  
21 the fire protection district.

22 Yet on the western part of annexation  
23 area 1A, I believe, is Richland Township. They are  
24 not part of the Monroe County Fire Protection  
25 District. So any Bloomington fire protection would

1 have to be extended to Richland Township residents  
2 after that fire truck has driven through another fire  
3 district territory.

4 In other words, it doesn't make logical  
5 sense. Those Richland Township residents currently  
6 are served by Ellettsville via a contract between the  
7 Richland Township Fire Department and the Ellettsville  
8 Fire Department.

9 So I think there are some -- some key issues  
10 here and some bigger issues here that -- that will  
11 absolutely need to be addressed and would need to be  
12 considered.

13 I don't -- I don't know how the City can  
14 provide sufficient police service if -- in an  
15 annexation area if they already struggle to do so in  
16 the city limits. Those are some examples. That's my  
17 reading of equitable.

18 Q Is there anything else? And I'm just trying  
19 to understand what you're going to testify about at  
20 trial and make sure I know, I have a fair opportunity  
21 to understand what you're going to testify about.

22 A Sure, sure.

23 Q So is there anything else with respect to  
24 this question that you might expect to testify about?

25 A I think one -- I think one of the other

1 concerns I have is with the fact that the -- the City  
2 had accused -- the city council members, specifically,  
3 had accused residents of the county of sort of, you  
4 know, being -- of being freeloaders.

5 And that word was used in a city council  
6 meeting, which was really unfortunate, that, somehow,  
7 county residents who don't live in the city are living  
8 off the largesse of city residents who pay a higher  
9 tax or for the opportunity to live in the borders of  
10 the City of Bloomington.

11 And you know, I think that was -- that was  
12 an error in many ways. I don't think that there -- I  
13 don't think the City should assume that people want to  
14 live in it.

15 I think the City should -- a city, any city,  
16 should assume that if people want an arts program, and  
17 they want bus service of a particular type, that they  
18 would move into the city if they wanted those  
19 services.

20 People -- people, when they -- if they come  
21 from outside the county, when they move to Monroe  
22 County, they have a choice: "I'm going to live in  
23 Ellettsville," "I'm going to live near Ellettsville,"  
24 "I want to live in Stinesville. It's a cute little  
25 place," "I want to live in the City of Bloomington,"

1 "I do not want to live in the City of Bloomington."

2 People made those decisions. It could be  
3 based on the price of the home. It could be the  
4 neighborhood. It could be where their family lives.  
5 But there is -- there is nothing that makes one a  
6 freeloader if they don't live in a town or a city but  
7 maybe visit it or go to a restaurant or see their  
8 friends in it.

9 But so that -- so that's an issue. I just  
10 don't think there is a clamoring for the kinds of  
11 things in the City of Bloomington that the people of  
12 Monroe County were accused of freeloading for that  
13 would -- would bring that to the level of, yes,  
14 everybody in Monroe County wants to live in the City  
15 of Bloomington. They don't necessarily want that for  
16 their own reasons, so.

17 Q If the annexations of areas 1A occur and  
18 become effective involuntarily, are there other terms  
19 and conditions you believe should be in the annexation  
20 ordinances that aren't in there currently?

21 MR. BEGGS: Object to form.  
22 Foundation.

23 A Yeah, I -- that's -- that's going back to my  
24 magical unicorn. I -- the -- the ordinance exists.  
25 It -- it would have been -- I think there had been

1 discussions since the time of the ordinance coming to  
2 fruition in the City.

3 I think that there have been some  
4 discussions that say, "Well, you know, maybe" --  
5 "maybe there's a way we can help. Maybe there's a way  
6 we could delay annexation for five years." Well, if  
7 you're on a fixed income, five years isn't going to  
8 make a huge difference in your ability to pay a higher  
9 tax bill.

10 So you know, those are very general  
11 conversations among residents and, you know, that kind  
12 of thing. So I -- I don't know how this could be made  
13 better because of the impact on individual homeowners.

14 Q You mentioned, earlier, other areas that the  
15 City has annexed where they're not providing services.  
16 What are you talking about?

17 A Right. I can think of a couple offhand. I  
18 do not remember the name of the neighborhood, but it  
19 is the one that is northeast of campus, Brownlee  
20 Street. They -- I believe they still are on septic.

21 There is the Broadview neighborhood. There  
22 are a number of locations within the city where they  
23 are clamoring for sidewalks still, whether they were  
24 recently annexed or not. So those are the kinds of  
25 things that I'm aware of.

1 Q Like do you have any specific knowledge of  
2 why the City -- so let me back up. You said Brawlee  
3 Street?

4 A Brownlee.

5 Q Brownlee. Sorry. My notes were bad.  
6 Brownlee Street.

7 A Brownlee, I believe, is the name of the  
8 street. So it's a -- it's a little alcove place that  
9 was annexed, where I believe they still have septic.

10 Q Do you have any information about why they  
11 are still on septic?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay. And you mentioned Broadview --

14 A Neighborhood.

15 Q -- neighborhood not having sidewalks. Do  
16 you have any information on why they don't have  
17 sidewalks?

18 A No, that's -- that's the city council  
19 business

20 Q Okay. Number 11 on page 10, and referring  
21 back to Exhibit 28, the question was "Identify and  
22 list all facts and documents supporting your  
23 contention in the Petition that the territories sought  
24 to be annexed do not involve an economic development  
25 project and identify each witness you intend to call

1 in support of your contention."

2 And you will see there, at the bottom of  
3 page 10, in the supplemental answer, the second  
4 sentence, it says "Furthermore, if called to testify,  
5 Julie Thomas," along with others, will "be asked to  
6 testify about the absence or presence of economic  
7 development projects within Areas 1A and 1B." What  
8 does that mean?

9 A As -- as it notes, there are no projects  
10 that we're aware of that are City economic development  
11 projects that are outside the city in those areas 1A  
12 and 1B.

13 Q So you're just referencing that the City  
14 doesn't have any city projects in those areas?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Okay. Are you saying that the County does  
17 not have economic development occurring in those  
18 areas?

19 A We do have economic development occurring in  
20 those areas.

21 Q Okay. You're not opposed to economic  
22 development in areas 1A and 1B. Are you?

23 A No.

24 MR. BEGGS: Sorry. I couldn't hear the  
25 question.



1                   MR. UNGER: I asked if she was opposed  
2 to economic development in areas 1A and 1B.

3 BY MR. UNGER:

4           Q     Do you agree that sewer and water service is  
5 necessary for economic development projects in area 1A  
6 and 1B?

7           A     Not always. Water, yes, but we have water  
8 everywhere in the county through our water  
9 corporations. Sewer may or may not be necessary. It  
10 depends on what it is.

11          Q     Do you agree it's necessary for dense  
12 development?

13          A     Not necessarily sewer, but a package plant,  
14 it could be Richland's water, wastewater. It could be  
15 City of Bloomington's wastewater. There are a number  
16 of different ways, but yes, based on state law, if you  
17 are going to put more than one residence in an acre,  
18 you have to have a different form of wastewater  
19 disposal.

20          Q     I'm sorry. Did you mention in there -- did  
21 I hear you say Richland could serve?

22          A     Yes.

23          Q     Have you done any studies on Richland's  
24 ability to serve areas 1A and 1B?

25          A     That's -- no, I have not. They have just

1 expanded, though, so.

2 Q Page 14 of the exhibit, if you don't mind,  
3 which is question 13.

4 A Question 13?

5 Q I'm sorry.

6 A Question 15?

7 Q Yes, sorry. It asks to identify documents  
8 and facts supporting your contention that the Monroe  
9 County commissioners oppose the annexation ordinances  
10 because they will negatively impact landowners,  
11 identify the specific negative impacts, and identify  
12 positive impacts, and identify each witness you intend  
13 to call in support of your contention.

14 And then you will see, in the supplemental  
15 answer, your name. It is anticipated that Julie  
16 Thomas will testify in her capacity as Monroe County  
17 commissioner regarding their continuing opposition,  
18 the negative impacts of annexation on Monroe County  
19 and its citizens.

20 Is there -- I know we have talked about  
21 several things today. Is there anything else about  
22 negative impacts that you can -- that I can expect you  
23 to testify about that you haven't already talked  
24 about?

25 A I do not believe so.

1           Q     I assume you have never prepared an  
2 annexation fiscal plan?

3           A     No.

4           Q     Have you -- besides the Reedy fiscal plan  
5 and the Baker Tilly report, have you ever studied an  
6 annexation fiscal plan before?

7           A     I have. It was from another state, another  
8 city. I don't -- it was somewhere in my homework when  
9 this first started years ago. I remember looking at  
10 some fiscal plans, because we were thinking about  
11 contracting with somebody to make one, and I didn't  
12 know what to expect. I couldn't give you particulars.

13          Q     Did you do anything to compare the fiscal  
14 plans, the other ones you reviewed, to Bloomington's  
15 fiscal plans?

16          A     No, no.

17          Q     Okay. Do you know what the statutory  
18 requirements are for a fiscal plan?

19          A     I -- I know some of it. I know some of it,  
20 enough to be dangerous. I know that that fiscal plan  
21 needs to be presented to the people who live in the  
22 areas that are targeted for annexation, and they are  
23 supposed to have public meetings where they can go and  
24 learn more, hosted by the City, to go and learn more  
25 about this financial information.

1           And what's concerning to me is that the --  
2 the Reedy report, when I looked it up, I found a  
3 version five which I didn't even know existed, as much  
4 as I have been doing this.

5           So that was disconcerting, because that came  
6 years after a public meeting was held for residents  
7 who had been targeted for annexation. So I -- I feel  
8 -- I understand that it is difficult to put out a  
9 fiscal impact statement, because it is a moving  
10 target.

11           It's always a moving target. People are  
12 moving in and out of the community, and things change  
13 all the time. But at the same time, I think that  
14 highlights the danger of such a large annexation in  
15 one fell swoop.

16           That's why this is so difficult to do, is  
17 because this is too much, too quickly. I think it  
18 needs to be incremental, smaller, with the people who  
19 are impacted directly involved.

20           Q     You said you didn't know that version five  
21 existed until recently. When did you learn it  
22 existed?

23           A     Because I was -- I was looking at -- I was  
24 looking for something on the bonds, on the total  
25 bonding capacity, and I just did a search on the

1 City's website.

2 Q What were you looking at total bonding  
3 capacity for?

4 A Because it was much higher than I remembered  
5 it being in the first Reedy report, because now  
6 they're up to 22 to 33 million, although that -- that  
7 is -- granted, that is for the entire area. So they  
8 haven't separated things out either. That's the other  
9 problem.

10 Q Do you believe that the Reedy fiscal plan  
11 fails to comply with the Indiana code?

12 A I believe it should have been available to  
13 residents and to the city council before they voted,  
14 not after.

15 Q So it's your belief that it wasn't available  
16 before they voted on it?

17 A They issued a new version. I don't know  
18 what other versions existed in between either, and I  
19 don't know where those are. That's a little  
20 concerning to me.

21 Q Did you -- have you done anything to compare  
22 version five to the prior versions?

23 A No, no, I have not had time to do that.

24 Q Okay. You don't know the differences?

25 A No, but I'm -- I'm going to look at it. I

1 plan to.

2 Q Aside from your concerns with the timing, do  
3 you have any -- aware of any other reason it fails to  
4 comply with the statute?

5 A I think if you compare -- and here's the  
6 issue again, because it's the old Reedy report that we  
7 originally had when Baker Tilly did their report in  
8 July of 2021 -- you can see that there are differences  
9 between Reedy's numbers and Baker Tilly's numbers in  
10 July of 2021. That is -- that is concerning to me.

11 Q Any other things you're aware of that you  
12 believe fail to comply with the statute?

13 A Those are key. That's it.

14 Q That's it. Okay. Thank you. Do you  
15 believe that the fiscal plan, the Reedy fiscal plan,  
16 fails to accurately assess the fiscal impact of the  
17 annexation?

18 A On? Can you reframe the question?

19 Q On either the County or on city residents or  
20 on annexation territory residents?

21 A I -- I think it fails to accurately reflect  
22 the impact on an individual homeowner, which is why we  
23 did our Baker Tilly report with the sample tax bills  
24 so that people could actually find out for themselves  
25 what -- what the difference would be for them.

1           And it may not be a lot, or it may be a lot  
2 of money. So I think there was a lack of information.  
3 I don't -- I wouldn't say inaccurate, but I would say  
4 there was a lack of information for individual  
5 residents to find out what the fiscal impact would be  
6 on their budget, on their home.

7           And I think, in terms of not just the county  
8 but every single taxing unit, there was a lack of --  
9 of clear and accurate information about the potential  
10 impact of annexation.

11           Q     Do you know what the differences were in the  
12 Reedy report and the Baker Tilly report to account for  
13 those differences?

14           A     I do know, but I have -- I cannot recall at  
15 this moment what it was, but I do remember that there  
16 was something very specific about how they calculated  
17 some of the taxes in the Reedy report was inaccurate,  
18 and Baker Tilly pointed it out in their letter.

19           So I will take a moment here and see if it's  
20 in this or if it's something they said in public at  
21 our meetings. Yes, they talk about, here, on page 13,  
22 in the notes section, yes, these are the differences,  
23 the different assumptions that were made about net  
24 assessed value and about levy and LIT. There were --  
25 there were other taxing issues that are different. So

1 those, I think, would be the keys I would focus on  
2 there.

3 Q So let me ask this. Do you think the Baker  
4 Tilly report accurately accounts or determines the  
5 financial impact to individual landowners?

6 A I believe that Baker Tilly came up with a  
7 way for individuals to assess for themselves what the  
8 impact will be on their individual tax bill, something  
9 that Reedy never did, something that at least people  
10 have that chance.

11 Now, this all -- this all differs when  
12 somebody is a disabled veteran over 65. Right? And  
13 there's different tax rules, but at least there's  
14 something here where an individual can figure out what  
15 it's going to be, because otherwise, you may hear  
16 50 percent increase, and that may or may not be  
17 accurate, but it's better to find out on your own  
18 property.

19 Q It's a parcel-by-parcel analysis?

20 A It is. It has to be. It has to be.

21 Q Okay. Are there any other deficiencies in  
22 the fiscal plan, the Reedy's fiscal plan, anything  
23 else that you believe is a deficiency in the Reedy  
24 fiscal plan other than what we have talked about  
25 already?



1           A     No, I think -- I think that there is --  
2 anywhere on this Baker Tilly report, you will see --  
3 let me thumb through here again to the right page. I  
4 used to know this like the back of my hand. I'm  
5 getting back to that.

6           You can see, in the Baker Tilly report, on  
7 pages 8, 9, 10, and 11, that you can see in -- in  
8 every instance where they are comparing their piece  
9 with what the Reedy group said in their report and  
10 saying, "Hey, this is off by this much or this much.  
11 It may be pro. It may be positive. It may be  
12 negative."

13           So all of this, I would take into account.  
14 Again, this is all the annexation areas, not just 1A,  
15 1B, so some of it may not be applicable.

16           Q     Anything other than the Baker Tilly report?

17           A     No.

18           Q     Okay. Again, I just want to ensure that you  
19 don't get on the stand and say something different  
20 that I'm not aware of.

21           A     No.

22           Q     Okay. Are you a part of County Residents  
23 Against Annexation?

24           A     Yes.

25           Q     Have you -- what's your role been with --

1           A       I'm on the board of directors.

2           Q       Okay. What does that usually entail?

3           A       We meet two -- sometimes once a month,  
4 sometimes once every two months. And our focus was,  
5 in the initial days, was on organizing residents so  
6 that they understood that there was a way they could  
7 look at their tax bill, there was a way they could be  
8 involved, to inform them of and educate them about the  
9 process, because talking about remonstrances and  
10 waivers is not something that, you know, most people  
11 get the first time.

12                   And so really, our job was to educate and  
13 inform and to ensure that people had the information  
14 they needed to understand how it would impact not just  
15 the taxing units but themselves individually.

16           Q       And the purpose of County Residents Against  
17 Annexation is to oppose annexation by the City?

18           A       The purpose of County Residents Against  
19 Annexation is to ensure that people are educated and  
20 understand their rights. They may choose to be  
21 annexed. They may want to be annexed. They -- they  
22 wouldn't necessarily turn to CRAA at that point.

23           Q       Have you donated to County Residents Against  
24 Annexation?

25           A       I have.

1 Q How much?

2 A I know it's 2,000. It may be 3,000.

3 Q Over the last --

4 A Three years.

5 Q Three years. Okay. Did you assist in  
6 organizing the remonstrance effort?

7 A I did.

8 Q Did you collect signatures?

9 A I did not.

10 Q Did you attend opposition meetings?

11 A I did.

12 Q How often would those occur?

13 A Well, you know, we had township trustees  
14 like Rita Barrow who held a meeting at the county  
15 fairgrounds. I was there for that one. I know there  
16 were a lot I did not attend, because I didn't know  
17 about them.

18 So some neighborhoods just kind of had their  
19 own meetings. People were -- you know, I was really  
20 there to help answer questions and to let them know  
21 what the County could or could not do to help them.

22 And I think some of those early questions  
23 really led us to focus on providing that Baker Tilly  
24 report to make sure that we weren't just saying, "We  
25 have got one financial report. This has got to be

1 100 percent accurate. We're going to buy it," but to  
2 actually have that -- another set of eyes looking at  
3 the same information and to provide, again, for  
4 residency ability to come out and ask Baker Tilly  
5 questions at public meetings.

6 I know we had some -- I know one of our  
7 meetings was at the fire station on Kennedy Drive, and  
8 we -- we invited city council members to that meeting.  
9 I know we had two there that I remember.

10 So the idea was just to provide -- to  
11 educate and provide information, and but -- but it  
12 really made us realize, you know, how much people  
13 didn't know and how much we didn't know when this all  
14 started.

15 Q You're familiar with the 2017 statute, House  
16 Bill 1001, that invalidated, at that time,  
17 Bloomington's annexation?

18 A Yeah.

19 Q What role did you play in getting that  
20 legislation adopted?

21 A Zero.

22 Q You didn't talk to any legislators about it?

23 A No, no, I had had conversations with Jeff  
24 Ellington early on, because he was opposed to  
25 annexation, and I said, "Hey," you know, "whatever you

1 can do would be good." and I think that was the extent  
2 of it. I -- you know, there was nothing organized or  
3 formal about that. That was just a commissioner to a  
4 state rep.

5 Q What about the -- you also are aware of the  
6 statutory change that invalidated all of the sewer  
7 waivers, the remonstrance waivers in exchange for  
8 sewer service?

9 A Yes, after a certain -- after a certain  
10 number of years. Right?

11 Q Yes, that are over 15 years old.

12 A Okay. That's the -- I want to make sure  
13 that's the one I'm looking at. Okay.

14 Q Okay. Yes, I think that change occurred in  
15 2019.

16 A Yes, yes, I am aware of that.

17 Q Were you involved at all in getting that  
18 legislation adopted?

19 A No, that was a surprise to me.

20 Q Okay. Have you been involved in any other  
21 efforts to change annexation laws in Indiana?

22 A I -- I asked our lobbyist for the County to  
23 kind of keep an eye on it, but we're well aware that  
24 there's really very little chance with the current  
25 makeup of the house speakership role in the state

1 legislature that any bill to change annexation to  
2 voluntary is not going to happen for a while.

3 So I have not been too invested in pursuing.  
4 I haven't testified. Although, I almost went this  
5 year to testify, but I didn't, because I realized that  
6 that would be a waste of time. So -- so yeah, not  
7 much.

8 Q So you're in favor of -- you would be in  
9 favor of a statutory change that eliminates  
10 involuntary annexation?

11 A Yes, I think it's fairer for people, yeah.

12 MR. UNGER: Okay. We can go off the  
13 record.

14 THE REPORTER: Off the record at  
15 3:35 p.m.

16 (Off the record.)

17 THE REPORTER: We're now back on the  
18 record at 3:43 p.m.

19 BY MR. UNGER:

20 Q We have talked about annexation here for the  
21 last couple hours. Is there anything that we haven't  
22 talked about that you think you may testify about in  
23 the trial?

24 MR. BEGGS: Object to the form of the  
25 question.

1           A     I -- to the best of my knowledge, no. I  
2 think that's all I can give you, because if I'm asked  
3 something, I'm going to answer it, and I don't know  
4 what I'm going to be asked.

5           Q     Is there anything else about your opposition  
6 to the annexation that we haven't talked about?

7           A     In terms of reasons or --

8           Q     Yes.

9           A     Is that what you're asking me? I -- I  
10 think, for me, I think the most -- I think the most  
11 important thing to understand is I am approaching this  
12 as a county commissioner, not as a county council  
13 member, because I am not that.

14                     And my focus has been and remains on the  
15 impact of annexation for individual property holders  
16 in the county, whether it's a business or a residence,  
17 and I'm not sure that that's what we focused on here.  
18 We focused on a lot of data, which is important, but  
19 that's not -- that's not my strength. It's not my  
20 focus.

21           Q     Any other reasons of opposition?

22           A     No.

23                     MR. UNGER: Okay. I have no other  
24 questions.

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EXAMINATION

BY MR. BEGGS:

Q Commissioner Thomas, I have a few. You testified earlier, I think, that you spent 4 years as a county council member, and you just alluded to that, and you're, what, 12 years, almost, into being a county commissioner. Is that correct?

A Correct.

Q And as part of your jobs as both county councilor -- county council member and county commissioner, are you regularly required to analyze, assess, consider, evaluate the impact to the County of changes in revenue sources, whether it be LIT, MVH, any other sources of revenue to the County?

A Yes, but much less so as a commissioner than as a council member, although I take my understanding of the data and how to interpret the data from my experience on the council.

Q So your opinions here today, I take it, about the significant economic impact are based part on your experience over these, what, 16 or so years as a leader in county government, including county finance?

A Yes, absolutely, and -- and it's an aggregate.



1           Q       You were asked questions about County  
2 Residents Against Annexation. Is it your -- do you  
3 know, Commissioner Thomas, are you aware of any  
4 objections by residents of 1A or 1B to being  
5 represented by County Residents Against Annexation,  
6 Incorporated?

7           A       Any objections?

8           Q       Yes.

9           A       No.

10                   MR. BEGGS: One moment, please.

11 Nothing further. Thank you very much.

12                   MR. COCKERILL: I have no questions.

13                   THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14                   MR. UNGER: Okay. No further  
15 questions.

16                   THE REPORTER: All right. Mr. Unger,  
17 are you ordering this transcript?

18                   MR. UNGER: Yes.

19                   THE REPORTER: All right. Mr. Beggs,  
20 do you need a copy of this transcript?

21                   MR. BEGGS: No, thank you.

22                   THE REPORTER: Mr. Cockerill, did you  
23 need a copy of this transcript?

24                   MR. COCKERILL: I don't think so. I  
25 assume Julie will get a copy to review.

1 THE REPORTER: She will take read and  
2 sign. Is that what you're saying?

3 MR. BEGGS: We request signature.

4 THE REPORTER: Okay. And whose office  
5 should I send that through?

6 MR. COCKERILL: You can send it through  
7 mine.

8 THE REPORTER: Okay. In that case,  
9 we're now off the record 3:48 p.m.

10 (Signature reserved.)

11 (Whereupon, at 3:48 p.m., the  
12 proceeding was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITION OFFICER

I, ANDREW PRONSCHINSKE, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

ANDREW PRONSCHINSKE  
Notary Public in and for the  
State of Indiana

Review of the transcript was requested.



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, SARAH JOYNER, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



SARAH JOYNER

Veritext Legal Solutions  
1100 Superior Ave  
Suite 1820  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
Phone: 216-523-1313

March 20th, 2024

To: E. JEFF COCKERILL, ESQUIRE

Case Name: County Residents Against Annexation, Inc., Et Al. v. City  
Of Bloomington, Indiana, Et Al.

Veritext Reference Number: 6485936

Witness: Julie Thomas                      Deposition Date: 3/6/2024

Dear Sir/Madam:

The deposition transcript taken in the above-referenced  
matter, with the reading and signing having not been  
expressly waived, has been completed and is available  
for review and signature. Please call our office to  
make arrangements for a convenient location to  
accomplish this or if you prefer a certified transcript  
can be purchased.

If the errata is not returned within thirty days of your  
receipt of this letter, the reading and signing will be  
deemed waived.

Sincerely,

Production Department

NO NOTARY REQUIRED IN CA

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DEPOSITION REVIEW  
CERTIFICATION OF WITNESS

ASSIGNMENT REFERENCE NO: 6485936

CASE NAME: County Residents Against Annexation, Inc., Et Al.  
v. City Of Bloomington, Indiana, Et Al.

DATE OF DEPOSITION: 3/6/2024

WITNESS' NAME: Julie Thomas

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 Julie Thomas

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  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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Notary Public

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Commission Expiration Date

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DEPOSITION REVIEW  
CERTIFICATION OF WITNESS

ASSIGNMENT REFERENCE NO: 6485936

CASE NAME: County Residents Against Annexation, Inc., Et Al.  
v. City Of Bloomington, Indiana, Et Al.

DATE OF DEPOSITION: 3/6/2024

WITNESS' NAME: Julie Thomas

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Julie Thomas

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 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 this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Expiration Date





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		<b>y</b> 4:10 <b>yeah</b> 7:7,18 9:13 10:25 12:15 29:9 31:6 34:13 42:9,20 46:16 49:8 51:18 52:21 62:6 66:11 72:17 76:3,20 76:23 85:23 100:18 102:6 102:11	

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.

DISCLAIMER: THE FOREGOING CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES  
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.

VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS

COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

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