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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF Formal Case No.
RELIEF FOR THE 202 AREA CODE 1165

Washington, D.C.
September 1, 2020

The open community hearing in the
above-captioned matter began at 2:02 p.m.,
pursuant to notice of community hearing held
virtually.

BEFORE: WILLIE L. PHILLIPS, CHAIRMAN
RICHARD A. BEVERLY, COMMISSIONER

Reported by: Sheryl A. Pautler, RPR
Job No. CS4237569

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 *****

3 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Good afternoon. We're
4 going to call to order the virtual community
5 hearing of the Public Service Commission of the
6 District of Columbia in Formal Case No. 1165 in
7 the matter of the petition for implementation
8 of relief for the 202 area code. I'm Willie L.
9 Phillips, Chairman of the Public Service
10 Commission. Joined -- I am joined by
11 Commissioner Richard Beverly.

12 For the record, today is September 1,
13 2020, and we are convening this hearing at
14 2:02 p.m. in a virtual setting. This community
15 hearing is being held to discuss the petition
16 of a North American Numbering Plan
17 Administrator or NANPA on behalf of the
18 District of Columbia Telecommunications
19 Industry for relief of the 202 numbering plan
20 area.

21 In the petition, NANPA on behalf of the
22 District of Columbia Telecommunications

1 Industry requests the Commission to approve a
2 new area code with an all-services overlay
3 throughout the entire district as relief for
4 number exhaust in the 202 NPA. Absent this
5 relief, NANPA represents that the supply of
6 telephone numbers in the 202 area code is
7 projected to run out during the third quarter
8 of 2022. In order to ensure the District of
9 Columbia has enough telephone numbers for
10 customers NANPA requests that the Commission
11 approve the petition no later than the fourth
12 quarter of 2020 and approve a 13-month
13 implementation schedule for the new area code.

14 NANPA asserts by adhering to this
15 schedule, the new NPA will be implemented six
16 months prior to the exhaust of the 202 area
17 code as required by industry guidelines. NANPA
18 asserts that a new area code with an
19 all-services overlay is the only form of relief
20 that will meet industry guidelines for the
21 district.

22 NANPA explains that the proposed

1 all-services overlay for the 202 area code
2 would superimpose a new area code over the
3 entire geographic area of the 202 area code.
4 NANPA represents that all existing customers
5 with the 202 area code would retain the 202
6 area code and would not have to change
7 telephone numbers. All calls within the 202
8 area code and between the new area code and the
9 202 area code would be dialed using ten digits.

10 NANPA proposes a 13-month implementation
11 schedule for implementation of the new area
12 code divided into three stages. The first
13 stage includes six months of network
14 preparation. The second stage is six months of
15 a customer education period in which customers
16 will be permitted to use both seven-digit and
17 ten-digit dialing within the 202 area code.
18 The third stage is for one month after the end
19 of the permissive dialing period when ten-digit
20 dialing becomes mandatory in the 202 area code
21 before numbers can be assigned in a new area
22 code. The Commission is required to approve

1 the petition and the implementation schedule in
2 order to facilitate the transition to having a
3 second area in the district.

4 This community hearing is being held to
5 provide interested persons who wish to comment
6 on the NANPA petition an opportunity to do so.
7 Representatives of organizations shall be
8 permitted a maximum of five minutes for oral
9 presentation, individuals shall be permitted a
10 maximum of three minutes for oral presentation.
11 Written comments or statements can be filed
12 until the close of the record September 4, this
13 Friday, 2020, by sending them to Brinda
14 Westbrook Sedgwick, Commission secretary,
15 Public Service Commission of District of
16 Columbia at PSC-CommissionSecretary@DC.gov.

17 We will start this virtual community
18 hearing with the presentation by Beth -- I
19 think this is Sprague, from NANPA. Followed by
20 the preregistered witness, and then any other
21 participate who wishes to speak. While you are
22 speaking, please speak clearly and loudly since

1 there is a court reporter recording these
2 remarks.

3 Our first speaker from NANPA please begin
4 your presentation. Do we have them on the
5 call?

6 MS. CARMEN DAVIS: Yes, she's on the call.
7 I think she'll be beginning shortly. Ms.
8 Sprague?

9 MS. BETH SPRAGUE: I've dialed in on the
10 phone. Do you hear me?

11 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Yes, we hear you.

12 MS. CARMEN DAVIS: Yes.

13 MS. BETH SPRAGUE: Okay. I just can't
14 figure out where do the sharing from my
15 computer. I don't seem to have that option.

16 MS. CARMEN DAVIS: I can -- I can pull it
17 up on my computer. Give me one second.

18 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: We can share for you.

19 MS. BETH SPRAGUE: Sorry.

20 MS. CARMEN DAVIS: No problem.

21 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: The commission's
22 secretary's office saves the day.

1 MS. BETH SPRAGUE: It's a PowerPoint.
2 It's the very last slide. Okay. Everyone
3 ready?

4 I'll start talking. This is just an
5 overview. Hello. My name is Beth Sprague. I
6 work for Selmos (phonetic), Incorporated, which
7 is the company that's contracted by the FCC to
8 act as the North American Numbering Plan
9 Administrator. And you can go to the next
10 slide.

11 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: I'll ask everybody to
12 please mute your phone if you're not speaking.

13 MS. BETH SPRAGUE: Okay. You can go to
14 the next slide. All right. So the purpose in
15 the objective, the purpose of this high-level
16 presentation is just to provide you an overview
17 of the NANPA, the area code relief planning
18 process that we use and the area code relief
19 method being considered by the Commission for
20 the 202 area code.

21 You can go to the next slide. This is a
22 little bit about the NANP in NANPA, the North

1 American Numbering Plan, the NAN is an
2 integrated telephone numbering plan serving 20
3 North American companies that share its
4 resources. The plan was introduced in 1947 to
5 facilitate direct distance dialing, really to
6 facilitate long-distance dialing.

7 The NANP number format, it's the NPA-NXX
8 then XXXX, with the NPA being the area code,
9 NXX being the central office code, it's often
10 referred to as the prefix, and then the last
11 four X's being the telephone number, the line
12 number.

13 So the NANPA is a neutral nongovernmental
14 third-party selected by the FCC to administer
15 telephone numbers for the U.S. and the
16 territories. And that's our website right
17 there, NANPA.com.

18 And you can go to the next slide. One of
19 our responsibilities is area code relief
20 planning, which means we track number usage.
21 We receive numbering reports from all service
22 providers in the U.S. We forecast when each

1 area code is going to run out of prefixes. We
2 work with the regulatory commissions and the
3 telephony industry to introduce new area codes.
4 And we typically start that process 36 months
5 prior to the forecast exhaust. Then we
6 facilitate the development of an industry
7 consensus relief plan, which we forward to the
8 Regulatory Commission in the form of a
9 petition. Once the Commission approves the
10 petition, NANPA initiates a meeting of the
11 industry to begin the actual implementation of
12 the approved relief plan.

13 You can go to the next slide. Some of the
14 factors that we consider when we're forecasting
15 is the history of code assignments, if there's
16 an increase in the demand, the individual
17 telephone telecommunication service provider
18 growth forecast which they provide us twice a
19 year and the current growth in the telecom
20 industry.

21 You can go to the next slide. As far as
22 202, that area code background, the 202 is one

1 of the original 86 area codes as defined for
2 the NANP in 1947. The 202 is unique. It has
3 only one city served by one rate center, which
4 is the Washington Zone 1 rate center. Numbered
5 conservation measures such as thousands block
6 pooling was implemented in 2002. And that
7 helped to extend the life of the 202.

8 If the number pooling had not been
9 implemented back in 2002, forecast exhaust at
10 that time was 2006. So that extended the life.
11 Right now, the 202 prefixes are forecasted to
12 exhaust by the third quarter of 2022.

13 You can go to the next slide. As far as
14 the number of prefixes remaining as of today,
15 there are 23 useable prefixes in the 202 area
16 code. So a new area code is needed to
17 replenish the supply.

18 We, NANPA, declared jeopardy on
19 August 3rd. A jeopardy situation occurs when
20 the forecasted or actual demand for prefixes
21 exceeds the known supply during the planning
22 and implementation interval for relief.

1 And furthermore, on August 20, the
2 industry got together and decided on the final
3 jeopardy procedures, which means the rationing
4 is in place right now, allowing up to three
5 codes be assigned each month. This rationing
6 assures that the remaining supply will last
7 until the new relief can be in place.

8 So you can go to the next slide. This
9 slide just shows the different relief methods
10 that are used. You'll see over on the left
11 area code splits which used to be somewhat the
12 prevalent form of relief. Splits require an
13 area code change for approximately one-half the
14 customers, and they also permit seven-digit
15 dialing.

16 I will note that splits have not really
17 been implemented in the last 14 years. The
18 last one that was done was in New Mexico. The
19 area code overlay method, which is over on the
20 right, is the most prevalent kind of relief, at
21 least it's what we've been doing the last ten
22 to -- ten to 15 years.

1 With an overlay, there will be more than
2 one area code in a geo -- in a geographic area.
3 An overlay will not require existing customers
4 to change their area code. But an overlay
5 requires customers to dial ten digits for all
6 calls. There would be no need to revise any
7 kind of stationery, business cards or any
8 signage unless the signage contains seven-digit
9 phone numbers. And overlay will end further
10 shrinking of the geographic size of an area
11 code because it will cover the same exact
12 geographic area.

13 So you can go to the next slide. As for
14 the relief methods, as you read in the
15 petition, the overlay is the only method that's
16 permitted for an area that has a single area
17 code with all prefixes or the majority of the
18 prefixes in a single rate center. And the
19 overlay is the only one required per the
20 guidelines that NANPA is required to follow. I
21 put those on the bottom, the NPA relief
22 guidelines.

1 And you can go to the next slide. This is
2 kind of dark. It's a map showing Washington
3 zone rate center. And you'll see the bordering
4 Maryland and Virginia. As I said, all
5 customers would retain their current telephone
6 numbers. Ten-digit dialing would be required
7 for all calls, local calls, toll calls. The
8 projected life would be approximately 51 years.

9 You can go to the next slide. And the
10 proposed relief for 202 in the petition is area
11 code overlay with a 51-year projected life.

12 And I think there's two more slides. Here
13 are some more of the impacts. With the overlay
14 method, the FCC has mandated ten-digit local
15 dialing between the old and the new NPAs. That
16 was a mandate from 1996. All current customers
17 will keep their current existing area code and
18 telephone number. All customers must dial ten
19 digits to complete all codes, including local
20 calls.

21 Dialing an area code does not change the
22 cost of a call, it does not mean the call is

1 going to be billed as long distance or toll.

2 If there are any calling areas, which is pretty
3 much going away these days, rates won't change.
4 Calls to 911, as well as the other N11's will
5 not be affected and will continue to be dialed
6 as three digits.

7 You can go to the last slide, I think.
8 These are the implementation periods during a
9 proposed overlay. The permissive ten-digit
10 dialing period, the customers can dial numbers
11 from the 202 area code to other 202 numbers
12 using seven or ten, but they're encouraged to
13 start using the ten-digit procedure.

14 Permissive dialing usually lasts several
15 months. Typically that's six months. Then the
16 mandatory ten-digit dialing period -- during
17 the mandatory ten-digit dialing period,
18 everything must be dialed with ten digits. If
19 a customer dials seven digits, they'll reach a
20 recording stating that they must hang up and
21 redial using ten digits. The actual
22 introduce -- introduction of a new area code

1 typically occurs about one month after the
2 mandatory ten-digit dialing period.

3 So unless there are any questions, that's
4 the end of the presentation. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you. Thank you
6 for the presentation. Do we have any questions
7 or comments from Commissioner Beverly?

8 COMMISSIONER BEVERLY: No. Thank you for
9 the presentation. It was clear and concise.

10 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Agree. So we will now
11 turn to -- I believe we have one preregistered
12 public witness. Carl Mason. Carl, are you on
13 the line or are you on the WebEx?

14 MR. CARL MASON: I'm on the line. I'm
15 here. I'm on the WebEx. My camera isn't
16 working. I apologize for that.

17 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: That's quite all
18 right. We can hear you loud and clear, sir.

19 MR. CARL MASON: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Please proceed with
21 your comments.

22 MR. CARL MASON: Okay. Well, my name is

1 Carl Mason. Good afternoon. And I wanted to
2 come to the hearing to speak to suggest an area
3 code. The area code would be 852. And the
4 reason why I picked that area code, because it
5 would be in honor of one of my friends, those
6 were his initials. And he was a native
7 Washingtonian. He loved his city. He
8 represented this city more than anybody I know.

9 Also, he -- one of the few people that I
10 came across, he lived in every ward in the
11 city.

12 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Wow.

13 MR. CARL MASON: So I just wanted to come
14 and find a way to honor him. And I thought
15 that this would be one of the best ways. I
16 researched the 852. It doesn't seem like
17 anybody has that area code.

18 And also, it's an area code that
19 represents TLC. And that's something that the
20 city can use, you know, in the current state
21 that the world is in and how the city is
22 affected by all of the craziness that's going

1 on. I feel like it would be a great way for
2 D.C. to sell the area code, as well as just
3 being symbolic of the city needing tender
4 loving care.

5 And just -- I'm glad I heard about this
6 hearing. It would -- I'm also happy if I could
7 be a part of this suggestion and contribute to
8 my community, because that's something that I
9 love to do, is contribute to my community. I
10 participate with ANC. So this is -- this is
11 something just -- it will be something great.
12 And it's -- you know, it's the small things
13 like this. And I think it will be a great
14 representation for the city.

15 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you for that.
16 Thank you, Mr. Mason. I -- you know, I have to
17 say that is an excellent suggestion. I will
18 just underscore for now, the determination of
19 what the new area code will be hasn't been
20 made. And that is -- there's a process for
21 that. But I think that 852 is a great
22 suggestion.

1 You know, everybody -- everybody loves
2 202. I think that there's a lot of pride in
3 the District of Columbia built up around our
4 area code. You can see people wearing T-shirts
5 that just say 202, and you know they represent
6 the district of Columbia. So this is a big
7 decision. So I think that having something
8 with a connection to the people would be great.
9 So I really appreciate your comments. Thank
10 you so much.

11 With that, okay, we -- are there any
12 additional -- let's see. Is there anyone else
13 joining the community hearing via WebEx that
14 wishes to speak? Please click on the raised
15 hand icon so that you can be unmuted when you
16 are called on. Those calling into the
17 community hearing who wish to speak, please
18 press star 3 to raise your hand. Please
19 identify yourself and the organization that you
20 represent before you begin your testimony.

21 So hopefully we have some other folks who
22 are on the line and willing to speak.

1 Commission Secretary, do we have anybody
2 raising their hand?

3 COMMISSION SECRETARY: I do not believe
4 so, sir.

5 MS. CARMEN DAVIS: No.

6 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: All right. Well, with
7 that, I want to once again thank everybody,
8 Ms. Sprague, Mr. Mason, for joining us today
9 and providing their testimony.

10 A recording of today's community hearing
11 will be available tomorrow on the Commission's
12 website. Copies of the transcript will be
13 available in the Formal Case No. 1165 docket.
14 This concludes the formal -- Formal Case
15 No. 1165 community hearing. Thanks, everyone.
16 Bye. Thank you.

17 (Whereupon at 2:22 p.m. the
18 Public Service Commission Open
19 Meeting was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, SHERYL A. PAUTLER, RPR, the officer before whom the foregoing open meeting was taken; that said meeting is a true record given; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by and of the parties to the action in which this meeting was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



SHERYL A. PAUTLER, RPR

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