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JUN 20 2013

Sedgwick Co. Clerk

TO: Sedgwick County Commissioners

RE: Comments June 5, 2013 BOC City of Valley Center De-Annexation Petition

Date: June 20, 2013

I am Jacques L. Fluker residing at 3819 Rio Grande Circle, Valley Center, KS.

As stated in my testimony on June 5, 2013, I have lived in the Valley Center area since 1983 (in the city proper) and at my current residence since 1990. My wife and I proactively moved to the country, not the suburbs, to raise our daughter in an environment similar to how we grew up. We both come from farming backgrounds and wanted a quiet, simple, outdoor environment to raise our daughter. We both knew about the extra work, expenses associated with this lifestyle (wells, septic systems, big yard). The reward for the extra work and expense was the trees, wildlife, seeing the stars (dark), the silence and lots of "toys".

The roads were in good shape before annexation. The edges of the road were not dug out and the road had a crown. Occasionally, additional materials were brought in to fill the edges and restore the crown because material would be lost into the ditches after rains, that is to be expected. After annexation, the edges were dug out, the crown flattened and no efforts made to add replacement road material whether it be sand or AB3. After the Five Year Post Annexation vote did not go the city's way, they realized they would need to put some effort and money into our area. Even at that it was too little, too late. During the snow storms this year, a city truck with plow came up our road and promptly ran off the road at the end of the cul de sac and was stuck. A road grader (imagine that) pulled the truck out and everyone promptly left. My wife and I took turns with our tractor and opened up all the driveways that were blocked and opened the road for two-way traffic, not the one lane opened by the city. We did NOT call the city to complain, we took care of the problem ourselves. This NEVER happened when the township was responsible for snow removal.

My neighbors and I have very few occasions to need help on animal problems. One instance was my former neighbors, Curtis and Dana Beaucamp, called the Valley Center Police Department about a dog in the ditch by their house that had being hit and gutted. Unfortunately the dog was still alive but the police would do nothing to put the dog out of its misery. Dana called the Sheriff and they came out and put the dog down. A side note is that Curtis and Dana were so disgusted with the annexation; they built a new home in Harvey County. I had an instance where a vicious dog was running around our yard. Beings that I was raised on a farm, I have absolutely no fear of animals, just cautious. This dog got my attention. This occurred on a Saturday and I called the police. The response was "the Compliance Officer is not on duty on weekends" and I should stay in my house. I asked to have the police chief call me because I was not happy. Chief Hephner called me Friday of the following week and said that was their policy.

The lighting is driving wildlife away. We use to have turkeys, red foxes and deer in our front and back yard. The wildlife is beautiful to watch. I can't remember the last time I saw a deer or turkey except in the commons area (22 acres the homeowners association owns along the west bank of the Little Arkansas, no lights there) since the lights have been installed.

I am having a hard time responding appropriately to Joel Pile's comment about the homeowners saying or doing anything to be de-annexed and somehow we have bullied some of the people who **signed** the petition not to speak. I am not surprised that this is his attitude but I am surprised he showed his true colors publicly. This attitude permeates the entire government structure in Valley Center. The first comment is at best very offensive and the second comment, well I just don't understand his rationale. I will leave it to you to reach your own conclusions. If our petition fails, the city and especially Joel Pile will be vindictive. Please go to this web site or Google the incident where Joel Pile had a man arrested for putting up a yard sign. <http://www.copblock.org/744/man-arrested-for-yard-sign/> The man was actually arrested and had to post a \$10,000 bond. The ACLU was engaged and the man won an \$8,000 judgment. This entire event was two people not acting like adults and I am not particularly fond of the ACLU but that is what occurred. A business in Valley Center, that I will not mention, is now being boycotted by the city because of a comment by the owner against a sales tax championed by the city for additional recreational facilities.

There have been several Five Year Post Annexation reviews regarding properties annexed by the City of Valley Center. The latest I think was June 27, 2012. There seems to be a common thread that the city has not met the provisions of **their** service plan in the meetings where property owners showed up to speak. Please note that during all the testimony and fact finding, the homeowners have not asked for anything from either the city or the county. All the services we have historically received from the county were excellent. That is a compliment to the various departments in the county.

In conclusion, I assure you this is not a conspiracy, we are not liars and we certainly are not bullies. I would suggest you Google my address and decide if we are suburban or rural. I wish there was a way of showing you what our property looked like when we first bought it. My wife and I have worked very hard to improve our property and make it comfortable as we grow older. I sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter.

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