

Meg Lawless

From: John Evans <jevans@GARDENCITYIDAHO.ORG>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 8:12 AM
To: Meg Lawless
Subject: Fwd: S1293

Attachment 6

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Meg,

Sorry for the delay. Here you go.

John

John Evans
Mayor
City of Garden City
p: 208-472-2927
f: 208-472-2998
a: 6015 Glenwood Street, Garden City, ID 83714
w: www.gardencityidaho.org

Subject: Re: S1293

The decision of governance and the delivery of tax supported services must be made on a larger scale than the individual property owner(s).

If a city's ability to annex enclaves, without landowner consent, is removed or significantly dimensioned then the statute will instead perpetuate county islands. County islands are an extremely inefficient way to deliver tax supported services. County governments should be concerned that they will be perpetually saddled with sending the sheriff, snowplow, etc. to smaller and smaller isolated county islands. Additionally, the perpetuation of county islands limits property owners who would like to annex but cannot become contiguous. This is true for large parcels looking to develop or a smaller single property owner who has had a well or septic system fail and needs access to utilities.

The City of Idaho Falls currently has the potential for county enclaves that exceed 30 parcels in every quadrant of the city. I've attached a map outlining those existing county developments within the Are of City Impact that have the potential of becoming enclaved as development occurs around them. Under the proposed language it is likely that these islands would remain indefinitely as they receive no city services and have not consented to annexation.

John Evans

Mayor

City of Garden City

p: 208-472-2927

f: 208-472-2998

a: 6015 Glenwood Street, Garden City, ID 83714

w: www.gardencityidaho.org

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Casper <RCasper@idahofalls.gov>

Date: February 15, 2024 at 2:40:43 PM MST

To: Kelley Packer <kpacker@idahocities.org>, John Evans
<jevans@gardencityidaho.org>

Cc: Catherine Smith <CASmith@idahofalls.gov>

Subject: S1293

John and Kelley—

See below.

Better late than never? I am very sorry we did not have this info ready sooner. I have new staff—including new leadership—in this department. This has placed a very large burden on the experienced staff to train and each processes even as we are slammed with work. No one has free time—even for me, and I hesitate to demand that they become legislative experts when we have citizens waiting for service.

Anyway, now that I have been made more aware of what we have used Cat B for, I can tell you that the problems we solved were significant. Our city map looked like swiss cheese when I became mayor in 2014. That is not a best practice scenario for planning, and it made our city services more expensive for everyone. We finally decided—but some said it far better than I am about to here--Cities with holes in their maps find that the occupants of the properties within are often filled by freeloaders who benefit from the city experience without supporting it. Geography matters and contiguity or adjacency is a key part of that. I will also tell you that we have a lovely statement of annexation principles that our City Council developed based on this multi-year experience described below. Perhaps it will help with rhetoric.

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Please let me know if there are additional questions that I could answer.

Community Development Services Department
Kerry Beutler | Assistant Planning Director

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Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
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kbeutler@idahofalls.gov

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