



THE CITY OF
MANCHESTER
MISSOURI

July 8, 2022

St. Louis County Boundary Commission members,

The City of Manchester appreciates your attentive presence at our Plan of Intent Public Hearing held on Wednesday, June 29 at Manchester United Methodist Church. We hope you all recognized the size of the crowd. The room was initially set up for 96. The City added another forty chairs before the presentations started. There were still City police and staff standing as the meeting started.

We (City of Manchester) will be addressing many of the points raised by St. Louis County. Two significant County points--1.75-minute response time by county police and the \$15 trash fee paid raised by unincorporated residents-- warrant our quick response.

Mr. Trimble's assertion that the County's police response time is 1.75 minutes:

When Trimble shared this statistic with the room, there was audible laughter. That reaction was warranted for his assertion.

In the world of policing and safety, there are strong bonds of friendship and trust, that often crosses jurisdictions. When hearing Trimble's statistic, one of Manchester's Police Officers contacted a colleague that works as a St. Louis County dispatcher and asked the contact about Trimble's claim. The dispatcher laughed and said, "That is indeed the number the County claims, but it is a running joke amongst the dispatchers because it flies in the face of reality."

The dispatcher explained that in determining the average, the County includes "officer events" that, in many cases, have zero response times. The statistic, as cited by Mr. Trimble, includes the "response time" on all officer events, many having "0 minutes" times, such as a traffic stops, business checks, stopping on a parking lot to write reports, stopping at the station, citizen contacts, going to court, etc. The County data even includes non-critical events such as an officer stopping to get lunch, running into Quick Trip to grab a soda or even stopping to go to the bathroom. Many of those events do not require a "response" and therefore have a zero-response time recorded.

The dispatcher added, "It is in fact, a policy that we can hold non-emergency calls for up to 15 minutes before dispatching an officer." Our officer was told these '15-minute holds', as bad as

they are, further skews the data in the County's favor. An example shared was a citizen calls in to report a non-emergency event at 1:00 pm. The dispatcher holds the call for 15 minutes and dispatches an officer at, as an example, 1:15 p.m. The responding officer then arrives on the scene in 5 minutes (1:20 p.m.) Although the victim had to wait 20 minutes for an officer to arrive, the County considers the officer's actual response time as being 5 minutes.

The dispatcher estimated the actual average County police response time is closer to 20-30 minutes.

Jacob Trimble's outrageous claim that the County PD has a 1.75-minute average response time should make all of us seriously question the County's manipulative approach to their data. This false statistic calls to attention the disingenuous tactics being used by the County.

Mr. Trimble's acknowledgement that County residents only pay \$15/month for trash services. (Contrasting unincorporated fees with Manchester fees of \$6/month.)

When discussing trash service fees, Trimble quoted \$15/month. This amount represents year 1, of a 5-year contract but provides a minimal level of service that fails to accurately compare County services with the same level of services that Manchester residents receive for \$6/month. If Trimble wanted to compare costs, he needed to be accurate in comparing same levels of service.

For comparison purpose and accuracy's sake, the City used trash fee data from District 4's new 2022 pricing chart. These costs cover the annexed area. Manchester provides weekly yard waste pickup, trash and recycle. In addition to those services, we provide Christmas tree pickup and free weekly bulk pickup, arranged by a phone call to our trash service provider.

The below data shows current annual costs for similar levels of trash services. The St. Louis County provider, Waste Connections, has different rates for years one (Y1) through five (Y5) and does offer a senior citizen discount which is not reflected in this comparison.

Unincorporated St. Louis County cost

Manchester cost

Y1 \$15.50 + \$11.00 mo + \$15/yr = **\$333/yr**

\$72/yr*

**Manchester provides for weekly household, recycle and yard waste pickup. Weekly service also includes bulk pickup without cost; called in. City pays for the entire bill for residents with an income hardship and for those needing hand pick-up due to disability or special needs.*

This comparison reveals that the savings that unincorporated residents might see as Manchester residents is even greater than what our Plan of Intent suggested. That difference is based on the new trash hauling contract that started in 2022 in unincorporated St. Louis County.

Why was St. Louis County given 21 minutes for their presentation?

City officials were told multiple times that we had 15 minutes for our presentation. Even with the connectivity problems that we faced as first presenters, our presentation only ran 40 seconds over—15 minutes, 40 seconds in length. We clearly had crafted our presentation to fall within the required timeframe. The City requests a Commission response to Manchester as to why the county was allowed to considerably exceed, by almost six minutes, the acknowledged time limit of 15 minutes.

Commissioners, thank-you for your presence at the public hearing and the deliberation needed as you face the key question before you; whether to allow two voting groups to decide their future, either together or separate.

For all of Manchester's elected representations and staff we thank you!



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