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REMARKS ON A.B. 56
to
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ASSEMBLYMAN BERNIE ANDERSON

FEBRUARY 14, 2003

GOOD MORNING MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS.

AS THE SPONSOR OF THIS BILL, I WOULD LIKE TO
MAKE A FEW BRIEF REMARKS TO INTRODUCE
ASSEMBLY BILL 56.

I BROUGHT THIS BILL FORWARD AT THE REQUEST OF
THE CHARTER COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF SPARKS.

THE CHARTER COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING
DILIGENTLY FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, AS IT
DOES BEFORE EVERY LEGISLATIVE SESSION, TO
DETERMINE WHAT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY
CHARTER ARE NEEDED.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS ON THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND THE CITY STAFF FOR PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE.

VERY SIMPLY PUT - A.B. 56 CHANGES THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING WARD BOUNDARIES FROM REGISTERED VOTERS TO POPULATION AND MAKES PROVISIONS FOR MONITORING THE POPULATIONS WITHIN THE WARDS DURING THE DECADE BETWEEN THE CENSUSES.

AS IN OTHER CITIES, THE WARD BOUNDARIES CAN BE CHANGED BY ORDINANCE AS NEEDED DUE TO POPULATION CHANGES CAUSED BY ANNEXATIONS OR GROWTH.

I AM TOLD THAT SPARKS IS OVERDUE TO MAKE THIS CHANGE SINCE THE OTHER CHARTER CITIES HAVE ALREADY CHANGED THEIR CHARTERS TO USE POPULATION RATHER REGISTERED VOTERS AS THE BASIS FOR WARD BOUNDARIES.

I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE LEGALLY
CORRECT THING TO DO.

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE TOM LEAN, CHAIR OF
THE CHARTER COMMITTEE, WHO CAN PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON THIS BILL AND
ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.