

TIMELINE OF EVENTS PURSUANT TO ANNEXATION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY

1. In 1990 the Boundary Commission approved the City's proposal to annex the Northwest Territory, which included areas served by the Robertson and Florissant Valley Fire Protection District. The voters approved annexation in 1991 with fire/EMS service to be provided by the Fire Districts. Despite the City supporting the Fire Districts keeping service, the Districts opposed the annexation and then filed a legal challenge. In 1993 the Missouri Supreme Court ruled that the Boundary Commission statute was illegal and, therefore, the annexation was invalid.
2. In 1992 the Fire Districts asked the State Legislature to amend the boundary commission law identifying the counties it applied to (St. Louis County) and establishing that when a municipality annexed an area served by a fire district, the fire district would continue to provide such services and that the annexing city would pay the district based on a statutory formula. The bill became law.
3. The City in 1994 proceeded to again annex the area. The annexations were again approved. The fire districts challenged the annexation on the grounds that it invalidated that fire districts are to provide the service pursuant to the 1992 law and that the election did not give voters the opportunity to choose their fire/EMS service provider. The parties resolved the litigation by court order in which the annexations were upheld and that the fire districts would provide services in accordance with the 1992 law, mandating that the City would pay the fire districts in accordance with the statutory formula. The City took the annexation issue and question about service to the voters again in April 1995. The voters overwhelmingly approved the annexation and service by the fire districts.
4. The City entered into contracts with Robertson and Florissant Valley Fire Protection Districts as well establishing the service and fees based on the statutory formula. The formula provides that cities will pay the fire districts the amount they would have received from property owners had they levied taxes in the service area as if these properties were in the boundaries of the Fire Districts.
5. Robertson increased their tax rate from 91 cents to \$1.25 by 1997, the first year that City payments in lieu of taxes were to be paid. They have subsequently increased them to \$2.54/\$100 AV. Florissant Valley has raised its rate from 70 cents to \$1.81/\$100 AV since 1995. The City's payments to the Fire Districts have increased from \$1.5 million in 1997 to almost \$5 million in 2017. This is over a 10% increase per year. The City's payments to Robertson are approximately \$4 million per year and \$1 million per year to Florissant Valley.
6. The City's property tax rate has increased from 31 cents to 99 cents since 1994. In addition, the City has implemented a series of sales taxes to cover the cost of the increased payments to the Fire Districts. The City's property and sales tax rates are at or close to the highest in St. Louis County.
7. The City has requested basic information from Robertson, such as a detailed budget, annual audit, salary schedules, and lists of purchases, in order for ensure taxpayers' monies are being properly used. These public records were not provided until the City was forced to file an Open Records request. Following several delays, Robertson provided minimal information and filed its

own Open Records request for the same information, which the City promptly provided. This makes it difficult to understand how taxpayers' money is being spent.

8. The City has requested since 2014 for Robertson to meet to discuss amending the contract and statute to address this funding inequity. Robertson has agreed to meet, but always refuses to address the issue. In addition, the City asked Robertson in 2015 to approve annexation of a new industrial park, which would provide over 1,000 new jobs to the area. The property owner agreed to the annexation. Robertson would have received the same tax revenue, but eliminate the burden of this new development from the City. Robertson refused to even consider the annexation.
9. Robertson requested in December 2016 to conduct a joint study by the International Association of Firefighters to merge the City Fire Dept. into the Robertson Fire District. Following an incomplete study, Robertson asked in June 2017 that the City discuss a merger to be conducted by the respective staffs. Following months of non-productive discussions and a \$28,000 taxpayer funded survey of residents, Robertson failed to even consider putting the merger question on the ballot.
10. Due to the deliberate inaction by Robertson, the City terminated the contract with Robertson, effective January 1, 2019. The City is also seeking legislative approval to allow cities to negotiate for fire service, which currently applies to all St. Louis County cities that does not have a fire department. Contract authorization will permit the City to negotiate with the best service provider, whether it is a fire district or municipal fire department. This will eliminate the negative impacts all City residents through higher property and sales taxes, reduced services, and causing residents in one part of the City to pay for services in other parts of the City.