



**WOODFORD COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE**  
**JAMES KAY**

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Members of the Fiscal Court:

In May 1991, the Fiscal Court adopted a resolution establishing a usage fee for certain property owners to help offset the cost of fire hydrants serving their area. At that time, a motion was approved creating a service district in Gaybourne and assessing a fee to households within the district. The fee has since been added annually to the affected property owners' tax bills. In 2000, Glenhaven was added as a service district through similar action.

Since the establishment of these service districts, ownership of many of the affected properties has changed. As a result, the original petition process requiring approval from at least fifty percent of the property owners within the district would no longer reflect the wishes of the current property owners. Additionally, in recent years, fire hydrants have been installed in other areas of the county without requiring nearby residents to bear the cost through a special assessment.

The residents of Gaybourne and Glenhaven are county taxpayers who already contribute to the funding of fire protection services through their existing tax obligations. Furthermore, the annual audit routinely identifies concerns regarding the administration of this fee, as it must be manually added to individual tax bills and is not approved annually as part of the Fiscal Court's regular tax rate process.

Given these considerations, and recognizing that the total annual revenue generated by the fee is approximately \$1,700, it is recommended that the Fiscal Court eliminate the hydrant usage fee currently assessed to properties within the Gaybourne and Glenhaven service districts and repeal the resolution establishing those service districts for the purpose of collecting this assessment.

Sincerely,

Woodford County Judge/Executive  
James Kay