

To all interested residents of the Poetry area:

I am today respectfully sharing with you what I know personally to be true, in contradiction of a factually incorrect narrative being passed among some residents of Poetry, that Terrell never planned to extend their city limits into the Poetry area, and thus there was no need to incorporate.

I realize that perhaps some residents were not aware of the process that Terrell began in 2019, and you did not attend public hearings and see all the resolutions and the maps. Some of today's residents were not even living in Poetry at that time. I was immersed in the ongoing actions of the Terrell city council. I had several conversations with the Terrell city manager. I know for a fact that all the barns, sheds, grain bins, and houses at the Porter Farm headquarters area, as well as a lengthy strip of our farmland along FM 986, would have soon been in the Terrell City limits, if Terrell had been able to complete their plans to forcibly annex on both sides of FM 986, to just past FM 3486, and down CR 249. All of us living along FM 986 to FM 3486, and some along FM 249 would be paying property taxes to the City of Terrell, and living under their codes and regulations. The Terrell city manager made clear to me that this was in their plans.

A very brief overview of facts: In the spring of 2019, the Terrell City Council passed Resolutions 927 and 928, which allowed them to forcibly annex 17 areas presently along roads and highways around Terrell and 3 other future highways. This was accomplished before HB 347 was passed, whereby the state required that cities get the permission of citizens before being annexed. Terrell was "grandfathered in" and could forcibly annex for years to come. Under Resolution 928, the first phase of forced annexation included "subarea 2019-12 (b)", which covered FM 986. Public hearings were held in 2019. Residents in several areas to soon be annexed were outraged, and determined to resist. A lawsuit against Terrell was filed, with 65 or 70 plaintiffs, to try to stop the forcible annexations.

The lawsuit temporarily stopped Terrell from moving forward with the first phase of annexation. The lawsuit dragged on for a long time and an alert group of residents in Poetry seized upon that opportunity to try to incorporate Poetry, and thus be able to block the City of Terrell from extending their limits out FM 986 to FM 3486, and from then extending the Terrell ETJ north on 986 for another



mile. This goal of blocking Terrell could be accomplished by creating a map that extended a proposed Poetry town limit, south to the ETJ of Terrell as it was in 2020.

Poetry voted by a large margin to incorporate in November, 2020, while Terrell was still appealing the lawsuit. Yippee! I will forever be grateful to those whose brought about incorporation and thus the portion of our family farm that includes land and many structures along FM 986 were not forced into the Terrell city limits. I am also grateful and proud that some of the acreage on the northern part of Porter Farm was included in the town limits of Poetry. I would expect that many other people in Poetry are also grateful that we incorporated and blocked Terrell, although I know that many residents were probably not even aware that we "dodged a speeding bullet".

I am trying not to make this statement too long, but I should point out that after the lawsuit was dismissed by the Texas Supreme Court, Terrell was able to restart forcible annexations under the "grandfathered" Resolution 928. Many, many acres all around Terrell were again put into the annexation process, but not FM 986! Thanks, town of Poetry !! But I again experienced the power of the Terrell City Council, as 47 acres on the east side of Porter Farm was targeted in 2023 as part of the Hwy 34 area forced annexation. An agreement was completed such that Terrell would annex a narrow strip around this 47 acres in 2023, and then at a future date the entire acreage would voluntarily be annexed into Terrell. So I have had a lot of personal experience with the plans and powers of the City of Terrell.

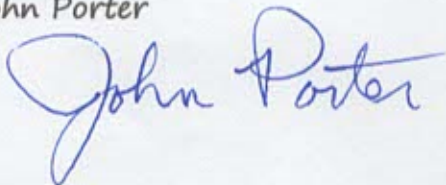
Also I had a conversation in 2023 with Terrell city management, as they resumed the annexation process, where it was related to me that they were watching to see the results of the 2023 election of the Poetry City Council members and mayor. They were still hoping to be able to annex property along FM 986, and gain control over FM 3486 from Hwy 34 to FM 986. It was clear that they thought if those persons who wished to disincorporate the town of Poetry had gained control of the Poetry city council, that eventually Poetry would no longer be a town and Terrell could complete their plans to extend their limits under Resolution 928 out into the Poetry community.

Thank you kindly for considering my statement. I am 76, having lived and worked on Porter Farm for virtually all of my life. I know you all want Poetry to retain its rural character as much as possible, and none of you want that more than myself and my family. I hope that you are glad to know that all of the Porter family desires to keep our farm acreage as open pastureland into the future.

The incorporation of Poetry succeeded in keeping Terrell out. Now the city of Poetry has decisions to make about the future. Perhaps you share the desire to keep Poetry rural, with minimal regulations and no property taxes. I just wanted to make clear the historical facts of the intentions of Terrell, beginning in 2019, to forcibly annex into the Poetry community. It is true!!

Thank you if you have read and thoughtfully considered what I have related.

John Porter

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letters of "John" and "Porter" being capitalized and prominent.