

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Senator Landis. The study before I did place before you a complete background of this information but obviously Senator Landis wants me to read it into the record and I will and please bear with me because it is a considerable story of what these people have been trying to accomplish. SID 95 has attempted to put some kind of recreational facility for over ten years in that particular area and they are financially able to do this and are responsible enough to afford it. First of all, they were going to build a pool. They were advised the pool probably was in the best interests of the Omaha area, particularly that southwest area and so then they decided they would approach the city on a community center. That is where it all began. So they did approach the city in 1978 and the city said yes. This sounds good. You appear to be financially responsible. Proceed. So then they went forward and conforming with the master plans with the planning division of Omaha, with the Public Works Committee, with the Parks and Recreation Committee, they met all the standards without exception. As I told you earlier they even increased their own mill levy up to almost four mills. That is how serious they were. So then armed with the full support of the city's Park and Recreation Department and other agencies they proceeded forward. They went to the city and the vote was six to one. Yes, the city council said we believe this is a good facility and it certainly will benefit a considerable number of people. So then the resolution went to the mayor. The mayor then proceeded to without discussion with those people or without particular reasons, veto it. So later they went back to the city council. A number of city council members said, yes, we agree, you have been good faith and will be good faith. We will override the mayor. Well they proceeded to override the mayor and finally got four votes when I was sure they had five because I was also in this issue by then and so here they sit with four. It takes five to override. So the city then talked of annexation. This was now in 1980 in July. The mayor was quoted in the local newspaper that he would not veto the SID 95 community center if the council again passed it because annexations have been definitely delayed and none were in near future planned for. So one councilmember then said yes, he had voted against it but now he would change his position. I am not identifying names at all but this is accurate. It is on the record. So again they went back in full faith to the city one more time, didn't get the approval. That is where we are today. We are here and we are saying to you we believe these people do have a special need and have demonstrated everything