

March 19, 2026

To the Sandy City Planning Commissioners

Thank you for allowing me to take a few minutes to talk about four items relating to these 29 annexation resolutions that I believe are important.

My name is Vaughn Cox. I live at 9906 South 2700 East. One of the parcels to be annexed is the parcel directly north of my property. I speak, wearing multiple hats, first as a private citizen, second, as a member of the Granite Preservation Committee, and also as a sponsor of the request for a feasibility study for the proposed City of Granite. My comments are related to these capacities.

Item Number One – The creation of five Sandy City Islands surrounded by Salt Lake County

The annexations would create five islands that would have one or more Sandy City parcels completely surrounded by unincorporated Salt Lake County. You would have a Sandy Island within an Unincorporated Island within Sandy City.

Doesn't Utah code and annexation precedent prohibit the creation of new islands like this?

As far as I can determine there are currently no existing Sandy City areas that are islands. This would be a first.

Details are as follows:

	Annexation		Address	Resolution Number
1	ANXO2262026	7120(R)	9876 S 2700 E	26-10C
2	ANXO2262026	7124(R)	9620 S 3100 E	26-14C
3	ANXO2262026	7134(R)	9682 S Oakwood Lane	26-22C
4	ANXO2262026	7143(R)	3249 E Little Cottonwood Road	26-31C
	"	"	3257 E Little Cottonwood Road	"
	"	"	3269 E Little Cottonwood Road	"
5	ANXO2262026	7146(R)	3023 E Janke Flats Ln	26-34C
	"	"	3033 E Janke Flats Ln	"
	"	"	3020 E Janke Flats Ln	"
	"	"	3030 E Janke Flats Ln	"

Item Number Two – Using culinary water to force annexation into Sandy City is contractually forbidden for some parcels due to contracts that Sandy City has entered into.

Two of the annexations have this issue. On January 31, 1992 Sandy City signed a contract purchasing the culinary water system of the North Dry Creek Irrigation Company. As part of that agreement there is wording that prohibits Sandy City from using culinary water access or culinary water connections to force annexation for any of the parcels currently receiving culinary water from North Dry Creek Irrigation. The document states that these property owners “shall not be required and shall be under no obligation in the future to annex into Sandy City to continue receiving culinary water.”

There are two parcels included in these annexations that received water from North Dry Creek that are governed by this purchase agreement and should not be included in these annexation actions. These include:

	Annexation		Address	Resolution Number
1	ANXO2262026	7120(R)	9876 S 2700 E	26-10C
2	ANXO2262026	7135(R)	2627 E 10000 S	26-23C

It is expected that these annexation resolutions were unintentionally included and that the initiators were not aware of Sandy City’s obligations. It is hoped that this will be corrected.

Item Number Three – These annexations will create four or five new unincorporated islands and will significantly increase the complexity of delivering municipal services.

In the interest of brevity only one example will be given, but this is a problem that most of these annexations will create. It would be beneficial if Sandy City would take a close look at these 29 annexation resolutions in total and examine the new islands and peninsulas that will be created and the impact that this will have on the delivery of municipal services.

The example that will be shared is the street of Altavilla Drive. The street begins at 10000 South and about 2600 East. It then runs south for approximately one half mile. As a result of these annexations the island that includes Altavilla Drive will be broken up from one island into four different islands. The following description of the effect on municipal services would be humorous if it were not so serious.

Let’s use the example of snow plowing. Since now Altavilla is part Sandy City and part unincorporated County there will need to be two snowplows instead of one. Imagine the Sandy City snowplow. It would enter the street on the north end. The first eight houses are County so it would drive this part of the street with its blade up. The next two houses are Sandy City, so the snowplow would drop its blade and plow the street in front of the two houses. The next two houses would be in the County so the driver would stop and lift the blade.

After this it gets tricky. The two houses on the east side of the street are in Sandy City but the house on the west side of the street are in the County. I’m not sure what will happen here. Perhaps the driver would plow only on one side of the street.

The next eight houses are County so the driver would lift the blade and drive to the next Sandy homes. There are two, so the driver would drop the blade and plow in front of those two homes. The final two homes on the street would be in the County. The driver would lift the blade and turn around in the cul-de-sac and drive back up the street with the same problem going north, constantly lifting and dropping the blade.

The County snowplow has the opposite problem. The driver drives the street with the blade up where the Sandy plow had its blade down and with its blade down where the Sandy plow had its blade up.

What a mess? Are you really going to let this happen? Someone needs to take a closer look. To use a sharper pencil and cross out those annexations that would cause these kinds of problems.

Item Number Four – What is the Real Motivation for These Annexations

The message delivered by Sandy City is that the city has a contractual right to complete these annexations. Perhaps they do? While there are many legal arguments that the annexation clauses are not enforceable, no one knows how a court would rule on this issue.

But in all candor, these 29 annexation resolutions, these actions that would annex 53 parcels of land within the Granite Community are not really about annexation at all.

They are about Sandy City's efforts to stop the incorporation of the City of Granite. If these annexations go through the map of Granite will change and there is not enough time for the residents of Granite to start over and complete the Incorporation before the July 2027 deadline. The incorporation effort would most likely die.

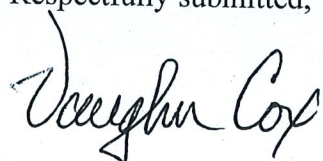
Stopping the incorporation is really what this is all about. But at what cost?

Through these annexation actions Sandy City is working to:

- Silence the voice of the Granite Community and its Residents,
- Stop a valid and legally authorized election, and
- Deny the residents of Granite their right of self-determination.

It's hard for me to find an example in Utah government of anything more undemocratic and unamerican than using technicalities and trickery to silence the voice of an entire community.

Respectfully submitted,



Vaughn Cox