VILLAGE OF LAFAYETTE Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan: Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Rights-of-Way

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Plan is to ensure that the Village of Lafayette creates reasonable, accessible paths of travel in the public rights-of-way for everyone, including people with disabilities. The Village of Lafayette is embarking on a significant and long-term commitment to improve the accessibility of those pedestrian



facilities located within public rights-of-ways. Recognizing gaps and barriers exist, the Transition Plan works to identify physical barriers and prioritize those improvements that should be made throughout the Village of Lafayette. This Transition Plan describes existing conditions and promotes policies and programs to enhance the overall pedestrian accessibility.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The federal legislation known as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted on July 26, 1990, provides comprehensive civil rights protections to persons with disabilities in the areas of employment, state and local government services, and access to public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications.

Title II specifically applies to "public entities" (state and local governments) and the programs, services, and activities they deliver. Title II, Article 8, requires public entities to take several steps designed to achieve compliance. Federal mandates require the Transition Plan shall, at a minimum include:

- 1. A list of the physical barriers in a public entity's facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs, activities, or services to individuals with disabilities.
- 2. A detailed outline of the methods to be utilized to remove these barriers and make the facilities accessible.
- 3. The schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II.
- 4. The name of the official responsible for the Plan's implementation.

Transition Plans provide a method for public entities to schedule and implement ADA required improvements to existing streets and sidewalks. Before a Transition Plan can be developed, however, an inventory of the

current public road rights-of-way including curb ramps and sidewalks must first be developed.

OBSTACLES TO THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

People have differing abilities: A variety of users need to access the sidewalk system. Their abilities vary in agility, balance, cognition, coordination, endurance, flexibility, hearing, problem solving, strength, vision, and pace. Pedestrians have varying needs, therefore, changing a design to enhance access for one group can create additional barriers for other individuals. The goal should be to make all sidewalks accessible to the largest possible number of universal design.

To improve the pedestrian paths within the public road rights-of-way, the Village of Lafayette worked with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Regional Planning Commission. The Village of Lafayette, ODOT and the Regional Planning Commission have worked to identify available programmatic federal and state funding to help underwrite the construction of sidewalks. The Planning Commission also worked with the Village to identify barriers within the public rights-of-way including curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and parking lots. Village officials were ultimately able to address a prioritized list of improvements based on an inventory of existing land use activities, and publicly owned buildings. Field surveys/inspections and the use of GIS mapping were employed prior to the public planning to expedite informed decision making. Of critical importance were the public rights-of-way serving government offices, downtown core areas, parks, public and quasi-public buildings and residential areas. Such data constitutes the foundation of the Transition Plan.

As a result of the inventory and the public planning process, the Village of Lafayette has identified and assessed obstacles in the public rights-of-way. The Village adopted a proactive approach to removing barriers in the public, predicated upon public comment/complaints, and ensuring that all future construction/repair within the road rights-of-way, regardless of funding source, will in a build-out scenario, ensure compliance with ADA design standards within Village rights-of-way.

General Policies:

Roadway Intersections

The Village of Lafayette will work in good faith to have curb ramps or blended intersections constructed or upgraded to achieve ADA compliance within all capital improvement projects at roadway intersections. There may be limitations which make it technically infeasible for an intersection corner to achieve full accessibility within the scope of a project. If so, those limitations will be noted and those intersection corners will remain in the Transition Plan. As future projects or opportunities arise, those roadway intersection corners shall be incorporated into future work. Regardless of whether full compliance can be achieved in all cases, each intersection corner shall be made as compliant as possible in accordance with the purpose of the ADA Transition Plan.

Deficient Sidewalks

The Village of Lafayette will work in good faith to have sidewalks constructed or upgraded to achieve ADA compliance within all capital improvement projects. There may be limitations which make it technically infeasible for segments of sidewalks to achieve full accessibility within the scope of a project. If so, those limitations will be noted and those segments will remain in the Transition Plan. As future projects or opportunities arise, those segments shall continue to be incorporated into future work. Regardless of whether full compliance can be achieved in all cases, each sidewalk or trail shall be made as compliant as possible in accordance with the purpose of t he ADA Transition Plan.

BARRIER REMOVAL PRIORITIES

The Village of Lafayette based barrier removal priorities on three (3) factors: use, location, and relative accessibility within the public road rights-of-way. The Village identified Plan priorities as follows:

- 1. Rights-of-way serving government and public facilities
- 2. Rights-of-way serving commercial services and employment centers
- 3. Rights-of-way serving other land uses

Accessibility Condition

The Village worked to identify the relative accessibility of the public rights-of-way during the inventory phase, survey phase and public comment period.

Priority Ranking

In order to determine the overall priority of specific improvements to enhance accessibility within the public rights-of-way, the following matrix was used.

| PRIORITY OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------|
| Land Use Type | Locations Commercial Serving Services & Other Lar Government Employment Uses Facilities Centers | | Other Land Uses |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |

The priority of improvements is based on identifying which of the public rights-of-ways serve a particular area/site within the Village, and the accessibility of the rights-of-way with respect to barriers. Appendix A identifies a prioritized list of projects by obstacle, location and 2019 estimated costs.

Public Comment/Complaint Process

The public comment/complaint process is fundamental and an integral part of the Transition Plan. Public complaints or requests help drive the prioritization of improvements. To file a complaint or a request regarding accessibility of a sidewalk or curb ramp, interested parties are urged to contact the ADA Coordinator in writing and describe the issue in detail, including the location. The ADA Coordinator will inspect and document the need for further possible action. The ADA Coordinator will record the formal response and reply to the complainant/requestor. All complaints or requests will be kept on file and will include the response. Appendix B contains the Village of Lafayette Public Comment/Complaint Form for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Rights-of-Way.

New Construction & Alterations

In order to ensure the correct design of curb ramps, sidewalks, and crosswalks in new construction and alterations within the public rights-of-way, the Village of Lafayette will follow the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) design specifications (see Appendix C). Moreover, whenever there is an alteration, intersection, roadway improvement project or new construction project, any affected curb ramp, sidewalk, and/or crosswalks within the affected area will be rebuilt to such ADA design guidelines. In order to improve accessibility the Village may choose to integrate PROWAG design standards into certain projects where feasible and reasonable. The Village will require minimum 5' sidewalk widths whenever federal MPO/ODOT/DOT monies are used in financing such improvements.

SCHEDULE

As opportunity allows, the Village of Lafayette will make efforts to improve the ADA Accessibility of pedestrian facilities in the public rights-of-way. At this time, the Village of Lafayette has budgeted \$10,000 annually for sidewalk improvements. There is a 20-year plan for streets to be scheduled for ADA compliance to include: Napoleon Road, Main Street, Church Street, High Street, Kentucky Street, Schick Street, Spring Street, Washington Street, Wood Street, Sugar Street, Jefferson Street, and Park Ave, Woodlawn Ave. Note that this schedule is flexible, as changes may occur such as additional funding, storms, improvements due to power and electric companies, etc. There will be times when is it technically infeasible to provide technical compliance: for examples, if clear space at the top of the ramp is obstructed by a building, or the slope the approach is so extreme as to prevent a reasonable slope for a ramp in both directions. The inventory process may not account for such situations and could show a high-priority rating when all feasible actions have been taken.

Additionally, given a program as broad and comprehensive as the Village's pedestrian network, the Village will follow the concept of "program access" under Title II of the ADA. Program access does not necessarily require an entity to make every approach of each of its existing facilities accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, as long as the program as whole is accessible. Under this concept, the Village may choose not to install a sidewalk at some locations (or to install them as a lower priority later), as long as a reasonable path of travel is available even without a compliant sidewalk.

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL

The official responsible for the implementation of the Village of Lafayette's ADA Transition Plan for the pedestrian facilities in the public rights-of-way is:

Ms. Laura Bassitt Fiscal Officer & ADA Coordinator Phone Number: 419-649-8801

Email Address: Villageoflafayette@yahoo.com

PUBLIC INPUT

The Village of Lafayette provided opportunities for individuals to comment on this Transition Plan, which included:

- DRAFT and FINAL Document (Transition Plan) made available at Village Hall.
- Public Meetings held the first Thursday following the first Monday of every month at 7:30pm.
- Open house and presentation at a public meeting scheduled for March 7, 2019.

The Village of Lafayette posted information in public entities within the Village notify residents public meetings of held December 6th and December 17th in 2018. The general public was encouraged to attend either of the special sessions to provide input for the ADA Transition Plan. (See Appendix E) The legal notice announced the availability of the Draft ADA Transition Plan at the Village Hall with easy public access. Hardcopies of the finalized plan have been made available at the Village Hall. The Village also made the ADA Transition Plan available at the Lafayette Public Library and Fire Department during normal business hours. Public comments were accepted for no less than 30 days and continue to be accepted today. The form for public comments/concerns is attached as Appendix B.

Formal adoption of the ADA Transition Plan is currently scheduled to take place on March 7, 2019. Thereafter, the Transition Plan will be available at the Village Hall and by written formal request to the ADA Coordinator.

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY INVENTORY

The sidewalk network in the Village of Lafayette is intermittent and in some cases, dilapidated and in need of significant improvement to reach ADA compliance. The existing sidewalk segments have been largely neglected save a handful of properties. The outskirts of the Village are void of sidewalks making it difficult for pedestrians with ambulatory disabilities to access critical facilities owned and operated by government bodies and quasi-public services.

Ensuring all residents access to civic life is a primary objective of the ADA. Currently, pedestrians with mobility impairments have difficulty accessing the Village hall, fire department, parks and centralized mailbox facility. By Federal law, government facilities must be accessible. To support pedestrian access, sidewalk installation is required.

The parks in the Village are areas of interest that possess their own challenges. The ball diamonds north of town are out of the Village limits, but the property is owned by Lafayette and subject to ADA compliance legislation. Traversing Little Hog Creek will require an additional stand alone bridge to secure accessibility as cost efficiently as possible.

The Jackson Township Park is out of the corporation limits. The Village does not own the relevant public road rights-of-way to integrate the park into the proposed sidewalk network. The park has been included in the ADA Transition Plan due to its proximity to the Village and discussion around annexation.

The Village landscape presents a few obstacles to installing a compliant sidewalk network. Much of the existing sidewalk will need removed before corrective construction can occur. There are also numerous trees within the public rights-of-way that will need to be felled prior to sidewalk installation. The elevation changes throughout the Village will also need to be addressed to maintain the proper slope for ADA compliance.

The following Table highlights the proposed improvements needed to bring the Village into Federal compliance. The projects have been prioritized based on their likelihood to serve the most residents at critical locations in the Village. The improvement table is not intended to be a static list. It should progress over time as capital improvements are made and the needs of the Village evolve.

| TABLE OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS | | | | |
|--|---|---|------------------|------------------|
| Location | Deficiency | Improvement | Cost Estimate | Priority Tier |
| High (Jefferson - Sugar) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Install sidewalks on both sides of High. | \$63,000 | 1 |
| High (Sugar - Main) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Install sidewalks on both sides of High. | \$29,800 | 1 |
| Main (High - Church) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Install sidewalks on both sides of Main. | \$43,800 | 1 |
| Main (Church - Washington) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Install sidewalks on both sides of Main. | \$29,800 | 1 |
| Washington (Main - Wood) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Install sidewalks on both sides of Washington. | \$29,800 | 1 |
| Sugar loop | No pedestrian access to critical facilities. | Install sidewalk to service library, fire department and mail box facility on inside of Sugar & Main. | \$70,000 | 1 |
| Jefferson (High-Church) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Install sidewalk on one side of road. | \$22,000 | 2 |
| Jefferson (Church - Washington) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Install sidewalk on one side of road. | \$15,000 | 2 |
| Washington (Jefferson - Park) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Install sidewalk on one side of road. | \$20,500 | 2 |
| Park (Washington - Kentucky) | Jackson Twp park is not accessible. | Install sidewalk on one side of Park St. | \$11,500 | 2 |
| High & Main | NE corner does not have detectable warning device. | Install detectable warning device in existing sidewalk. | \$800 | 2 |
| Washington & Sugar | NE & SE corner does not have detectable warning device. | Install detectable warning device in existing sidewalk. | \$800 | 2 |
| Park (Kentucky - western terminus) | Jackson Twp park is not accessible. | Install sidewalk on one side of Park St. | \$20,500 | 3 |
| Jackson Twp Park | Parking lot is not accessible. | Asphalt surface parking lot. Current area: 7,000 ft2 | \$21,000 | 3 |
| Schick | No pedestrian access to park. | Sidewalk (including bridge) to service ball diamonds. | \$285,000 | 3 |
| Ball Diamonds | Parking lot is not accessible. | Asphalt surface parking lot. Current area: 19,000 ft2 | \$57,000 | 3 |
| Napoleon (N. Corp - Washington) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Remove sidewalk in poor condition. | \$1,500 | 3 |
| Church (Main - Sugar) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Remove sidewalk in poor condition. | \$5,700 | 3 |
| Church (Sugar - Jefferson) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Remove sidewalk in poor condition. | \$11,800 | 3 |
| Washington (Park - S. Corp) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Remove sidewalk in poor condition. | \$7,700 | 3 |
| Wood (Washington - Church) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Remove sidewalk in poor condition. | \$800 | 3 |
| Sugar (Church - High) | Sidewalk is not accessible. | Remove sidewalk in poor condition. | \$4,100 | 3 |

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC COMMENT/CONCERN FOR PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

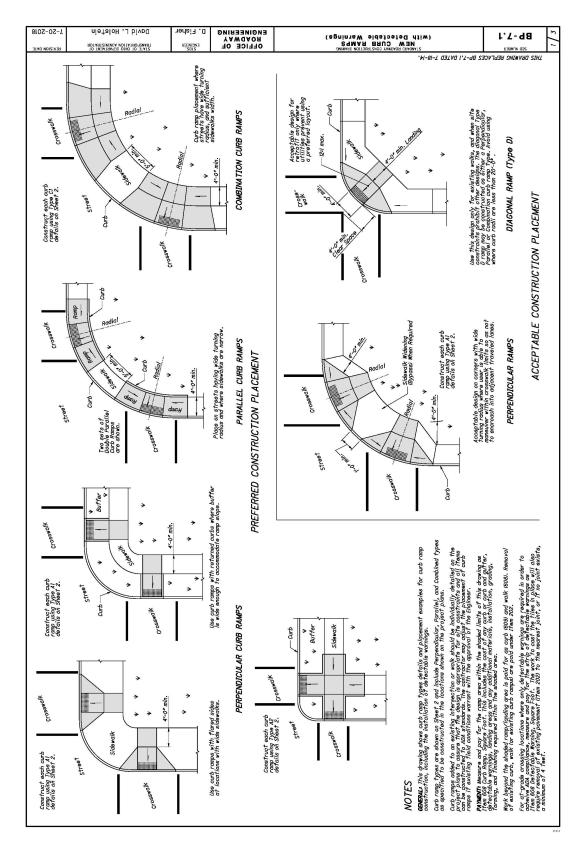
In an attempt to comply with the American with Disabilities Act, Mayor Ron Moots and Laura Bassitt, Coordinator of the Village of Lafayette ADA Transition Plan, are soliciting public comments and concerns regarding the ADA Transition Plan and pedestrian facilities within the public rights-of-way. Residents are encouraged to participate in the identification of obstacles and the ongoing improvement of public rights-of-ways within the Village of Lafayette.

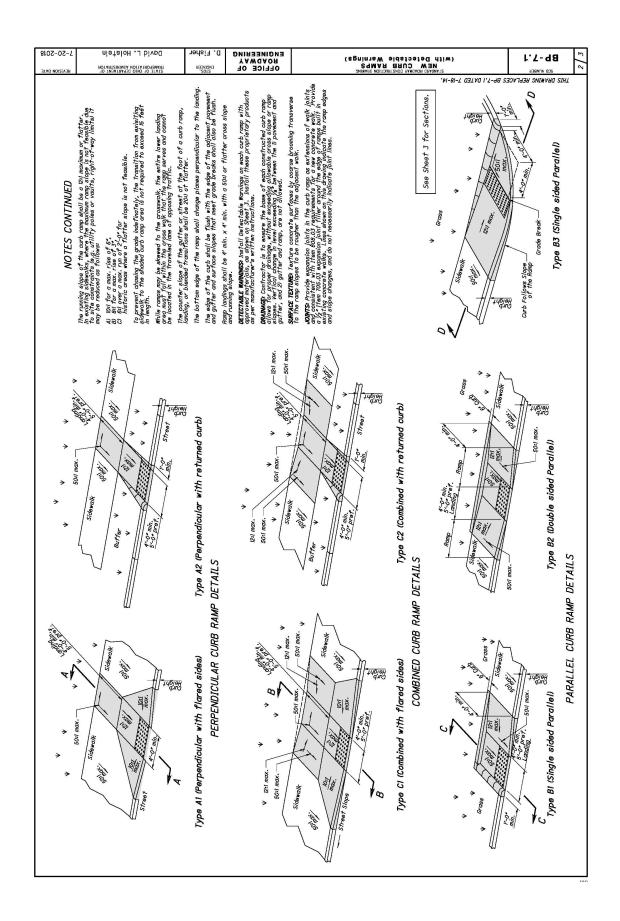
Laura Bassitt can be reached for comment by telephone at 419-649-8801 or email at villageoflafayette@yahoo.com. Grievance procedures will require the filing of this form available at the Lafayette Village Hall, 225 E. Sugar Street, Lafayette, Ohio 45854.

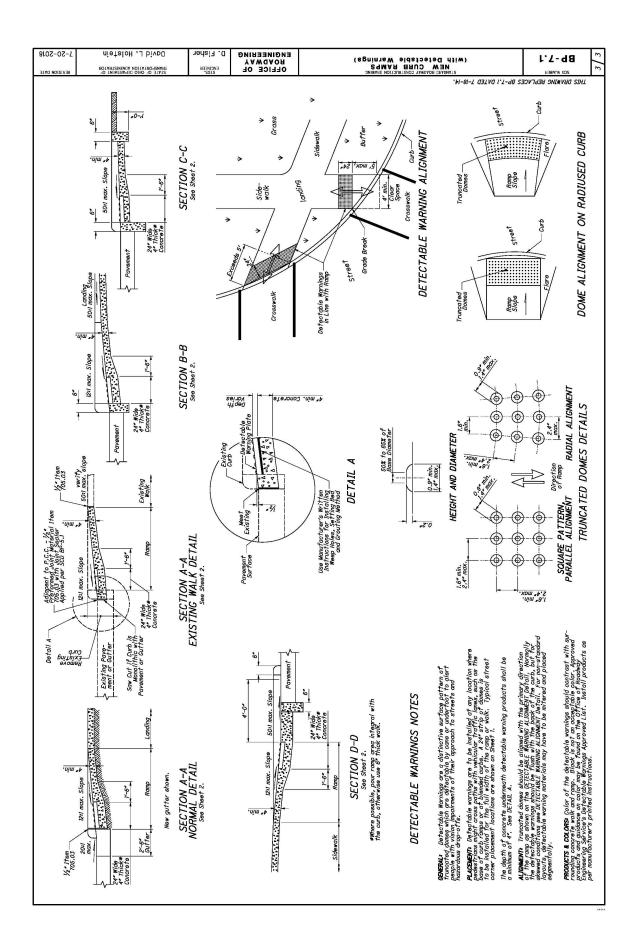
PUBLIC COMMENT/CONCERN & RESPONSE FORM (Please provide specific locations and or pictures of obstacles)

| Date of Comments: |
|-------------------|
| |
| Name of Person: |
| |
| Comments: |
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| Response: |
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APPENDIX C:
THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) DESIGN
SPECIFICATIONS







APPENDIX D:

VILLAGE OF LAFAYETTE POLICY STATEMENT GOVERNING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN & PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Introduction:

The purpose of this Plan is to ensure that the Village of Lafayette creates reasonable accessible paths of travel in the public rights-of-way for everyone, including people with disabilities. The Village of Lafayette is making a significant and long-term commitment to improving the accessibility of pedestrian facilities. The Transition Plan will identify physical barriers and prioritize improvements that should be made throughout the Village of Lafayette. This Transition Plan will describe the existing policies and programs to enhance the overall pedestrian accessibility.

Legal Requirements:

The Federal legislation known as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enacted on July 26, 1990 provides comprehensive civil rights protections to persons with disabilities in the area of employment, state and local government services, and access to public accommodations, transportation and telecommunications.

Title II specifically applies to "public entities" (state and local governments) and the programs, services and activities they deliver. Title II, Article 8, requires public entities to take several steps designed to achieve compliance. The Village Transition Plan will, at a minimum include:

- A list of physical barriers in a public entity's facilities that limit accessibility of its programs, activities, or services to individuals with disabilities.
- A detailed outline of the methods to be utilized to remove these barriers and make the facilities accessible.
- The schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II.
- The name of the official responsible for the plan's implementation.

The Village is in an ongoing process of identifying and assessing obstacles in the public rights-of-way through the use of an Inventory Tool. Barrier removal priorities based on location land use and accessibility conditions are integrated within the inventory process. It is very important that the

public be aware that their involvement in this Plan is a valuable component to Village efforts toward establishing a workable plan of compliance.

Public Complaint:

Public complaints, suggestions and comments are an integral part of the Transition Plan. Public comments may often drive the prioritization of improvements. To file a comment, concern or request, please mail the Village of Lafayette at 225 E. Sugar St, Lafayette, Ohio 45854 or by telephone at 419-649-8801, by email at villageoflafayette@yahoo.com.

Public Input:

Public Comment & Response Forms are available at the Village Hall. The Village of Lafayette welcomes your participation and unique outlook as to how the Village can meet ADA requirements. Public involvement in the Village ADA Transition Plan is a valuable component to the Village in compiling workable plan of compliance. We continue to solicit your additions to the ADA Transition Plan.

Summation:

An inventory of the Village of Lafayette streets is included with this Transition Plan. The inventory reflects a prioritized list of projects necessary to complete ADA requirements. An annual appropriation to bring sidewalks into ADA compliance will work to eliminate barriers and complete the requirements. The Village will annually reassess priorities to better serve the mobility limited and work to ensure reasonable access and ADA compliance within the community.

Ron Moots, Mayor

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Village of Lafayette is in the process of compiling an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. The Village of Lafayette invites the public to become involved in this process through written comments or attendance at Village Council meetings, held the first Thursday after the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Village Hall, located at 225 E. Sugar Street, Lafayette, Ohio 45854.

The Mayor has appointed Fiscal Officer, Laura Bassitt, as Coordinator of the Village of Lafayette ADA Transition Plan for pedestrian facilities in the public rights-of-way. To file a complaint, request, or offer suggestions regarding accessibility of a sidewalk or curb ramp please contact the ADA Coordinator who will inspect and document the concern and possible action. The Coordinator will subsequently respond to the complainant/requestor within 30 days. Ms. Bassitt can be reached at the by telephone at 419-649-8801, by email at villageoflafayette@yahoo.com.