



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

January 19, 2017

TO: Isiah Leggett, County Executive

FROM: Roger Berliner, Council President

SUBJECT: Telecommunications Facilities

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RB", enclosed in a circular scribble.

On behalf of the Council, I wanted to share our thoughts on two issues regarding possible Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule-making and procedures to address new telecommunications facilities.

We are aware that the FCC is seeking comments on "Streamlining deployment of small cell infrastructure by improving wireless siting policies; Mobilitie, LLC petition for declaratory ruling." We believe the County would be best served by a joint letter to the FCC indicating the County's interest in retaining its authority over new telecommunications facilities. We could agree to hire outside counsel to join with other jurisdictions, if you believe it is in the County's interest to do so. The Council looks forward to seeing your draft of comments to the FCC that I can sign with you.

As you know, the County is faced with several hundred small cell applications before the Telecommunications Facilities Committee. These applications involve the use of County rights-of-way and invoke the county's process of conditional use approval. The Council has been petitioned by concerned residents to retain the Center for Municipal Solutions, a firm based in North Carolina, to assist the county in drafting appropriate county measures that would maximize their community protection in the process. The Council has retained outside firms previously. The Council will support the hiring of consultants that commands the confidence of residents. Ultimately, the Council looks forward to your recommendation on these matters.

cc: Tim Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer
Sonny Segal, Director, Department of Technology Services
Mitsuko Herrera, Cable Communications Administrator

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