

Andrew Leon

From: Evan Maxim
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Jeff Miller; Mom
Cc: Council; Andrew Leon; Mona Davis
Subject: RE: Cell tower round 2, Verizon comments

Dear Jeff Miller,

Thank you for taking the time to send the note.

I am not sure how closely you have been tracking the recent City conversation around small cells - in case you are not aware, there have been some changes to the regulations in the last 10 months or so. The FCC has issued a "[new rule](#)" which curtails the City's authority to review small cells in a number of ways – notably the City cannot prevent the installation of small cells, or "densifying" the wireless coverage (page 16 of the PDF, item 36 and subsequent). This new rule limits the City's ability to require a change in the location of the small cell, though we will be applying pressure on Crown Castle to address neighborhood concerns. The City has also established a webpage that has background information on our current regulations and long term thinking, which may be of use: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/small-cells>.

The FCC's new rule has been appealed by a number of cities (including Bellevue, Seattle, Portland, LA). To date, I do not believe the appeal has moved very far through the judicial process. Because the FCC's new rule is "in force" until the appeal is resolved, the City has adopted interim standards (here: <https://mercerisland.municipal.codes/MICC/19.06.070>) that are intended to focus on minimizing the aesthetic impact to the extent feasible. Longer term, we are currently anticipating that we will adopt new, permanent standards that will also be intended to minimize the aesthetic impact of small cells. Things like, enhanced limits on noise, requiring the undergrounding of power, creating incentives for collocation, requiring hollow poles with internal equipment and antenna mounts, will be discuss more fully by the Planning Commission and City Council.

Regards,

Evan Maxim
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-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Miller <jefrodad@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 1:33 PM
To: Evan Maxim <evan.maxim@mercergov.org>; Mom <millertimecindy@hotmail.com>; Lisa Anderl <lisa.anderl@mercergov.org>; Bruce Bassett <Bruce.Bassett@mercergov.org>; Debbie Bertlin <Debbie.Bertlin@mercergov.org>; Salim Nice <salim.nice@mercergov.org>; Wendy Weiker <Wendy.Weiker@mercergov.org>; David Wisenteiner <David.Wisenteiner@mercergov.org>; Benson Wong

<Benson.Wong@mercergov.org>; Jeff Miller <jefrodad@hotmail.com>

Subject: Cell tower round 2, Verizon comments

Hi Evan, I want to give you some comments on this recent proposal to install Verizon cell towers on the island. Our house will now be center between two different cell towers one in our front and one behind us each about 120 or so feet from our property. We walk by the T-Mobile cell tower and it's noisy. I would say it is about eight or so DB above ambient, where ambient is the natural sound level of the street at about 41 DB and the tower is at 50 or so DB as measured by my cell phone. Granted, that's not probably very accurate, but it gives it A ballpark figure that you do hear these things 60 or 70 feet away from them. And they don't look very good with all the equipment and cables hanging on the pole. So, could we please ask the city to adopt a restriction that prevents these towers from being any closer than say 500 feet from each other? Or pick a reasonable number so that Island residents don't get these things stacked up around their houses. I learned from Crown Castle that they had proposed to the city to make these cell towers more discreet, by using hollow poles or camouflaging the installation. But the Crown Castle engineers said that the city directed them to use the existing utility poles. I think that was a mistake, and hopefully the city could revisit that design consideration. Because if they use a hollow pole they could hide the cables, they could put the equipment cabinets on the ground or even below ground, and they really should use passive cooling and not fans which are noisy. Could you please comment on the ability of the provider to use passive cooling and eliminate the noisy fans?

Finally, according to the literature on small cell towers, it is possible to collocate multiple carriers on one cell tower. It is a little more work and expense for Crown Castle, but would be far more desirable if four or five different carriers could all use the same cell tower. I believe they call it a distributed system, and they might need to invest more in the equipment and the technology to provide this type of service. Could you please let us know what the impact would be to put all the carriers on A single utility pole to be able to cut back on all the different cell towers?

Thanks,

Jeff Miller

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Sent from my iPad