VERIZON WIRELESS, INC.
APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION OF THE SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPROVAL IN BZA CASE NO. 16255 TO ALLOW THE ADDITION OF ANTENNAS ON AN EXISTING TELECOMMUNICATIONS MONOPOLE

I.
STATEMENT OF EXISTING AND INTENDED USES

Verizon Wireless, Inc. ("Verizon" or "Applicant") seeks approval from the Board of Zoning Adjustment to modify the special exception approval granted in BZA Case No. 16255 to allow an increase in the number of antennas from nine to fifteen on an existing telecommunications monopole.

The monopole is located at 2435 Alabama Avenue, S.E. (Square 5725, Parcel 215/32) on the grounds of the Garfield Elementary School, which is part of the D.C. Public Schools. The school use will continue at the site regardless of the relief requested in this application.

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II.
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION RELIEF

A. Background

In 1997, AT&T Wireless, Inc. ("AT&T") obtained special exception approval to install a monopole with nine panel antennas on the grounds of the school. The monopole is 80 feet in height, with the antenna array located at the 80-foot level. Condition No. 2 of the order limited the number of antennas to nine.

B. Current Proposal

In order to fill a gap in its cellular communications coverage, Verizon proposes to install six new panel antennas on the existing AT&T monopole. The antennas will be located at the 70 foot height level of the monopole, below the AT&T antennas, in a triangular configuration facing in three directions, as shown on the plans. Verizon is also requesting flexibility to install six additional antennas at the 70-foot level at a future time, as demand and service coverage warrant. The total number of antennas being requested under this application is twelve. Together with the AT&T antennas, the monopole would eventually support a maximum of twenty-one antennas. An equipment shelter would also be installed in a fenced area on the ground near the monopole.

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Significantly, there is no increase in the height of the existing monopole. Additionally, because the proposed new antenna array will be located at the 70-foot height level, no persons will come in contact with or be exposed to the antennas.

C. Appropriateness of the Installation

The addition of the proposed new panel antennas is in harmony with the intent and purpose of the Zoning Regulations and Map. Under section 201.6, the Zoning Regulations normally allow the addition of antennas to an existing broadcast tower as a matter of right. At the time the current regulations were adopted, however, monopoles did not exist. Consequently, the proposed zoning text amendments for antennas, currently under consideration by the Zoning Commission, will also allow the addition of antennas to existing monopoles as a matter-of-right, if they are adopted by the Zoning Commission. *See* proposed section 2607.1.

In its 1997 approval of the AT&T wireless facility, the Board conditioned approval of the monopole on limiting the number of antennas to nine. Verizon, therefore, seeks modification of the special exception approval to allow the installation of additional antennas.

D. Compliance with Standards of Regulations

Installation of the additional Verizon antennas will not compromise and is consistent with the basis for the original installation, as follows:

1. The school building will continue to largely screen the views from Alabama Avenue and Jasper Street and adjoining properties.

2. The location of the monopole and the existing and proposed antennas are appropriate as they will continue to not interfere with the operations of the school.

3. The proposed antenna installation is necessary for Verizon's seamless coverage to wireless service customers.

4. The present character and future development of the neighborhood will not be adversely affected.

5. The additional antennas will not affect in any way road congestion or safety since this installation will continue to be an unmanned facility. There will be no need for water or sewer service and no special requirement for other public facilities or services.

6. The additional antennas will not generate any noise. Similarly, there will be no offensive odors emitted by the equipment, transmission lines or antennas. There will be no harmful emissions nor any electrical or blanketing interference from the equipment, transmission lines or antennas.

7. There will be no adverse impact on the health, safety, security, morals or general welfare of residents, visitors or workers in the area and no adverse impact on the use and development of the surrounding properties.

8. The additional antennas will be in harmony with the general character of the neighborhood.

9. The additional antennas will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the R-5-A District in that improved wireless communications will advance public health and safety interests, will help alleviate road congestion, and will help expedite the provision of police and fire protection.

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