



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 8E

Commissioner Deborah Wells (8E01), Commissioner LaQueda Tate (8E02), Commissioner Kelly Mikel Williams (8E03), Commissioner Anita Burrows (8E04), Commissioner Duane A. Moody (8E05), Commissioner Dolores 'Miracle' Bryant (8E06), Th-Juan McLeese-Lewis (8E07), Saudia Jenkins (8E08), Commissioner Rhonda Holmes (8E09)

**District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200-S
Washington, DC 20001**

November 4, 2024

RE: BZA CASE NO. 20571B – VERIZON ANTENNA TOWER

Dear Chairman Hill:

Please accept this missive on behalf of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 8E in response to your February 14, 2024, BZA hearing regarding the above-referenced case. The applicant for BZA Case No. 20571B, Shea Beltran, representing Verizon Wireless, presented before Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 8E at a properly notified and held meeting on May 6, 2024. It was explained that Verizon will need an extension to Order 20571, which approves a temporary monopole located at 3999 8th Street SE (Square 6124, Lot 0047, zoned RA-1), a.k.a. 700 Yuma Street SE.

Verizon had antennas installed on the Ferebee Hope Recreation Center on the subject parcel. When that building was scheduled to be demolished, Verizon needed a temporary solution to continue to serve the community with cellular service. Verizon had previously approached KIPP Schools with a proposal to install their antennas on their rooftop. Kipp initially rejected all colocation proposals from Verizon, as they did not want antennas on their rooftop.

After quite a bit of lengthy back-and-forth with the school, Verizon appeared to have a breakthrough. KIPP Schools would allow the antennas to be installed on the roof, provided they are hidden behind a stealth screen wall. This delay in the leasing negotiations with KIPP meant that Verizon needed to request an extension to the original BZA order, which was granted in August 2023.

Recently, though, KIPP approached Verizon and unexpectedly halted all negotiations, stating that they would not allow for Verizon's antennas to be installed on their property. Because of this abrupt reversal, Verizon needed to scramble to find another location for the antenna.

Verizon has confirmed a candidate for this project, The Overlook Apartment Complex, and has begun the leasing negotiations and the zoning and permitting process. They are forecasting to have a building permit for this co-location by the end of summer 2024 and expect to have a lease signed and in place by September 2024. The installation on the new rooftop, as well as the deconstruction of the temporary asset, will require approximately 3-4 months of work. ANC 8E has met and voted to support Verizon Wireless's proposal to extend the previous approval so that the new antennas can be installed at the Overlook Apartment Complex location with minimal disruption to cellular service in the community.



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On Monday, July 1, having established the required five members for a quorum, during duly our regularly scheduled public meeting, ANC 8E voted unanimously to support the BZA application for an extension to Order 20571A. Commissioner Bryant, who represents the Washington Highlands community, voiced concern that Verizon was seeking more delays and not operating in good faith. Verizon representative Shea Beltran assured the Commission that this move would put an end to the delays and concerns of the community once and for all. With that commitment, the extension was approved. This extension will allow Verizon Wireless enough time to finalize a lease with the owner of the new building, install the antennas on that rooftop, and deconstruct the existing temporary monopole.

Respectfully,

K. Mikel Williams

Kelly Mikel Williams, Chairman
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8E