

Testimony from Gary Jones N T-Mobile USA, Inc.

Good evening, I am Gary Jones, Director of Standards Policy for T-Mobile USA, formerly known as VoiceStream Wireless. Thank you for allowing me this time to speak with you.

As I'm sure you've been told, the wireless industry has exploded over the last few years, with usage exceeding all predictions.

What you may not know is that, since 9/11, commercial wireless communications are now viewed as a necessity, not a luxury. Our government now considers wireless communications a viable alternative to the wireline network. In fact, wireless systems are now considered critical infrastructure by the government and we are now taking steps to "harden" our networks against terrorist's attacks and natural disasters.

In the past year, at the request of the White House, T-Mobile has implemented a wireless priority service in Washington and NY, which allows selected individuals to have an increased chance of call completion during an emergency. People who qualify for this service include the National Security Leadership as well as local public health, safety and police decision makers. A PowerPoint slide is attached to this testimony showing the types of personnel that will qualify for Wireless Priority Service.

At the local level, this will include folks like the chief of police and his senior staff, the fire chief and staff, the mayor, and heads of utilities and medical facilities.

In addition, T-Mobile has implemented nationwide the ability for key leaders in the government and military to be able to talk with top-secret security on their wireless phones. This gives our country another level of security against interception of sensitive information.

However, the problem with wireless is basic physics N no coverage means no priority, no capacity, no 911 calls, in fact no wireless communications of any kind.

T-Mobile is being asked almost daily to increase our coverage in DC, both in buildings and in coverage holes that currently exist right here in the district so that these critical communications links can be maintained during an emergency.

Also since 9/11, T-Mobile has been asked to increase our capacity here in metropolitan Washington, to accommodate additional wireless calls in the event of a mass evacuation necessitated by another terrorist attack. Of course, this increased capacity also helps the DC residents in making calls during peak traffic periods by making more channels available for normal or 911 calling.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 01-02
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 01-02
EXHIBIT NO. 100

The only way for a carrier like T-Mobile to increase capacity in the presence of our existing spectrum constraint is to replace larger cells with multiple smaller cells and that means more antennas.

This does not mean that we want to place 100 ft towers or monopoles all through the district, but rather it means we are working through the existing process to place those additional antennas in the least intrusive and least objectionable locations, and always with the oversight and approval of the District Office of Planning.

The bottom line is this n T-Mobile, as well as the entire wireless industry, have been given a task to help federal, state and local governments communicate during times of emergencies such as we have so painfully gone through last year, and even as our neighbors in MD and Virginia are going through right now.

We have developed and deployed here in DC the capability to address this task from a technical perspective.

However, the guidelines in the DC Zoning Text Amendment will effectively block our ability to give the increased capacity and coverage being requested by the local and federal agencies to meet their needs on a practical basis.

We believe it is important that you know the consequences of your action on revisions to the zoning rules that, while generated in good faith by the OP, failed to take into consideration the technical input from T-mobile and other industry representatives. We are committed to the task force and will continue to support its efforts, so that the results don't adversely impact programs like wireless priority service and the critical nature of wireless communications here in the nation's capitol.

We believe the current rules give you the oversight needed to maintain the beauty and aesthetic interests of the DC heritage while allowing the wireless industry to complete the mission laid before us in serving the local as well as the federal government in times of crisis.

We ask you to please not put us in a position to have to tell Chief Ramsey, Chief Thompson, Mayor Williams or even the Congress or the President that we cannot accomplish the mission they have given us because the new zoning rules in DC prevent us from putting up antennas in a timely manner or even putting them up at all.

Thank you.

Background: WHO WILL USE PRIORITY SERVICE?

**NS/EP Leaders and Key Personnel
Whose Mission Supports Any Of
The Following:**

- National Security Leadership
- National Security Posture and US Population Attack Warning
- Public Health, Safety, and Maintenance of Law and Order
- Public Welfare and Maintenance of National Economic Posture

Source: Code of Federal Regulations Title 47,
Volume 3, Part 64, Appendix A,
Telecommunications Service Priority System
for National Security Emergency
Preparedness
[Revised as of October 1, 1997]

