

October 21, 2002

Ms. Carol Mitten, Commission Chair
Zoning Commission
Washington DC
Attention: Mr. Alberto Bastida
Fax No.: 727-6072

Reference: Case No. 01-02
Text Amendment – Regulation of
Antennas, Antenna Towers and Monopoles

Dear Ms. Mitten,

I am pleased to write this letter on the subject of regulating antennas, antenna towers and monopoles.

My concerns are related principally to safety, health and aesthetics issues – particularly regarding historic neighborhoods -- and provisions to facilitate the effective regulation of these receivers and transmitters.

Accordingly, I appreciate and applaud measures already taken such as:

- Requiring certification of compliance with the FCC's RF radiation guidelines and OSHA regulations by a licensed engineer;
- The recent consolidation of the antenna regulations into one chapter and the separate definitions for "antenna", "antenna tower" and "monopole";
- Requiring that owners remove -- at their own expense -- any antenna, antenna tower, monopole or equipment cabinet that has not been used for one year.

To further protect the health and safety of our citizens and visitors, I support:

- Introducing a requirement -- into Sec. 2601 -- to certify compliance by making actual field measurements, rather than just relying on computer simulations, for determining the maximum potential cumulative RF radiation generated by all existing antennas at the site, prior to adding the RF expected from the applicant's new antenna (Sec. 2601.2(c)).
- Requiring applicants to include with their applications maintenance plans and to specifically indicate how they will protect the public from falling ice and debris.

Amending Sec. 2604 to require the owner of an antenna that is placed on a roof with an outdoor recreation space to conduct and submit within 60 days of installation of the antenna the results of field monitoring of the RF radiation emissions in the outdoor recreation space.

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To protect the aesthetics of our city, I support:

- Prohibiting new antennae from being added to existing towers in those districts where new towers would be prohibited (R and C-1 districts), unless by special exception.
- Amending Sec. 2610.2 and 2611.12 to specifically allow the BZA to require greater setbacks where necessary in order to protect adjacent and nearby property;
- Apply design and screening provisions in order to shield from view antenna equipment cabinets and equipment shelters that are not roof structures;
- Authorizing the Zoning Commission to regulate antennae in public rights of way, particularly those antennas that may be attached to utility poles. (This would also address a health and safety concern.)

Thank you for your consideration of the above concerns. I sincerely hope that you will decide to change or amend the regulation accordingly in order to safeguard the public interest.

Sincerely,



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