



GREATER WASHINGTON IBERO AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1710 H Street, 11th Floor N.W., Washington, DC 20006

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October 17, 2002

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Ms. Carol Mitten

Chair, District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW
Suite 210 South

Re: Zoning Commission case 01-02, Text Amendment, Regulation
of Antennas, Antenna Towers, and Monopoles

Dear Chairman Mitten:

The Greater Washington Ibero American Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to advancing the economic interests, as well as improving, the commercial and business conditions of Hispanic-owned businesses in the DC metropolitan area. According to the 2000 census, the Hispanic population in the Washington, DC area numbers nearly 700,000, and ranks as the 18th largest and the 3rd wealthiest Hispanic market in the United States. The number of Hispanic businesses has followed this trend in population, increasing to over 35,000 businesses in the greater DC metropolitan area.

U.S. Hispanics will spend more than \$21.3 billion on telecommunications this year, representing more than 40% of the ethnic telecommunications consumer market.¹ Hispanic groups are expected to increase wireless and general telecommunications spending by more than 13% each year through 2005, while the general consumer population is only expected to increase spending by 10% in each year of the same time period.² Wireless telecommunications are essential to Hispanic social interaction and business development.

Wireless voice and data communications services are extremely important to District Hispanic businesses, across a wide range of industries and professions, from construction to retail, from landscaping to healthcare. District businesspersons and their customers depend on wireless communications to conduct business and stay connected with their customers. Like the ubiquitous and always available wireline telephone service we depend upon, ubiquitous wireless service is also critical to all District businesses. Users of wireless services make no distinction between its availability and that of the traditional telephone connection, and their expectations of wireless service availability and quality equals that of wireline service.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Case 01-02

Exhibit 72

¹ "U.S. Hispanics Spending \$20 Billion on Telecom, Says INSIGHT Research," Business Wire, August 26, 2002.

² "Ethnic Groups to be Large Pool of Wireless Users," RCR Wireless News, March 12, 2001.

"26 YEARS SERVING THE HISPANIC BUSINESS COMMUNITY"
1976 - 2002

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.01-02
EXHIBIT NO.72



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The nature of business is changing and the workforce is more mobile than ever before. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of mobile workers in the United States will rise by 12.7 million to reach a total of 105 million.³ The number of workers who are not mobile will decline by 2 million over the same period, to 53.8 million.⁴ Hispanics will make up a significant portion of this mobile workforce and economy.

No Hispanic business or consumer should be denied access to this employment opportunity just because they live or operate in an area that lacks adequate wireless telecommunications infrastructure. The Zoning Commission should seek to develop regulations that promote, rather than limit, wireless access throughout the District by allowing providers to fully build out their networks. There can be no "telecommunications divide," wireless or otherwise.

The wireless industry is currently struggling to provide the capacity to keep up with the increasing demand for its services in the District. The lack of seamless, ubiquitous wireless coverage has the potential to hurt the growth of existing and new Hispanic commercial enterprises, and limits their ability to meet the demand of their customers.

The Greater Washington Ibero American Chamber of Commerce strongly recommends that the Zoning Commission, in revising the District's wireless facilities zoning ordinance, assure wireless telecommunications services are available throughout the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Michael Veve, Esq.
Vice Chair
Board of Directors

³ "Mobile Workforce Nears 100-Million Mark," Wireless NewsFactor, July 1, 2002.

⁴ Id.