



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C

PO Box 21009, NW, Washington, DC 20009

www.anc1c.org

Representing Adams Morgan

Commissioners:

October 4, 2018

Amir Irani (1C01)

Public Space Committee

Hector Huevo (1C02)

c/o Public Space Permit Office

Ted Guthrie (1C03)

District Department of Transportation

A. Tianna Scozzaro (1C04)

1100 4th Street SW, Room 360

Wilson Reynolds (1C07)

Washington, DC 20024

Amanda Fox Perry (1C08)

RE: Small Cell Guideline Comments

Public Space Committee:

At a duly-noticed public meeting held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C passed the enclosed resolution by a vote of 4-0-1 (Huevo, abstaining).

Sincerely,

Hector Huevo, Esq.
Chair, ANC 1C

Enclosure

ANC1C RESOLUTION
Regarding Small Cell Technology Guidelines
October 3, 2018

WHEREAS, wireless providers plan to install between 2,000 and 2,500 small cell technology and supporting infrastructure installations on light poles in public space throughout the city for the purpose of building a 5G/LTE network;

WHEREAS, these wireless companies have already identified locations in the city where they plan to install the technology and related equipment and have signed Master License Agreements with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT);

WHEREAS, DDOT has worked with these wireless companies and the Office of Planning, Historic Preservation Office, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission to develop design guidelines to address the general standards and aesthetics for the design and installation of the small cell technology and related equipment;

WHEREAS, ANCs were not notified by DDOT about the small cell technology design guidelines until late August, and were given only until October 5 to comment on the guidelines;

WHEREAS, the wireless carriers have not provided important information about the small cell technology infrastructure, including the size of the boxes that will house the cells;

WHEREAS, the guidelines provide very limited renderings of what the installations will look like, nor do they provide information about the standards that will be used to determine what the installations should look like in certain parts of the city, including historic districts;

WHEREAS, the Master Agreement charges the carriers fees for installing the small cell technology on poles and notes that the District may require carriers to provide equipment for the Smart City program, but the District would pay them for it. The Master Agreement doesn't require the carriers to provide any other public benefit to District residents;

WHEREAS, the Master Agreement states that before applying for a permit for the first installation, the carrier must notify the ANCs and the Ward Councilmember of its plans to install small cell technology in the neighborhood. However, under the draft guidelines, ANCs only have the opportunity to review and comment on proposed installations that are not consistent with the guidelines, making it unclear what opportunity the ANCs will have for review and comment;

WHEREAS, the general public is largely unaware of the existence of this project;

WHEREAS, the installation of small cell technology infrastructure could have a significant impact on street trees in the District, as there may be no physical impediments between the poles on which the cells will be placed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC1C:

Finds that ANCs and residents were left out of the process of developing the small cell technology design guidelines until a month before the Public Space Committee's scheduled vote on them, which is not enough time for resident and ANC review;

Finds that not enough detail about the deployment of the technology and supporting infrastructure and their effects on the streetscape have been provided to the public;

Recommends that the guidelines be amended to ensure that ANCs have 30 days to review and comment on all proposed small cell technology installations, not just those that do not comply with the guidelines;

Authorizes the Chair or his commissioner-designee to write a letter to Mayor Bowser and DDOT Director Marootian urging DDOT to delay consideration of the guidelines until additional informational meetings about the small cell technology can be held in each ward, the D.C. Council has held hearings, and residents and ANCs have had ample opportunity to comment;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chair or his designees are authorized to represent ANC1C in this matter.