

Dear Councilmembers,

We have reviewed the proposed changes to procedures relating to public participation before the MC OZAH. We gather that the genesis of this proposal relates to the process proposed for siting of small cell towers per federal requirements, however, we are deeply concerned about the broad applicability of the proposed change and how unnecessarily and detrimentally restrictive it is under any circumstance.

You will find information here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2018/20181016/20181016_5A.pdf

Moreover, It is entirely awkward that this sweeping change is being decided without benefit of public hearing and more holistic discussion about how to facilitate greater ease of hearing these applications without preventing appropriate public participation. While there may be one applicant in these matters, there are generally multiple and unrelated stakeholders participating in the process who have varied issues/concerns that should be afforded time to be heard.

Perhaps there is a way to bifurcate the rule based upon the applicant being a federal agency with mandated use and, in that case, allowing for appropriate public input but within some reasonably confined time frame.

In any case this proposal as written over reaches and does detriment to the important intent of the process. We therefore go on the record as opposing it.

Sincerely,

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