



October 25, 2018

Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Suite 300  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Chair Cristol:

On behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, I write to encourage the County Board and County staff to take a proactive approach in finalizing the process for small cell wireless antennas to be deployed in Arlington County. As access to modern mobile communication networks is a key element in business and lifestyle location decisions and other communities are making such provisions, the Chamber encourages the County to establish its procedure as soon as possible. Quick action will ensure that Arlington remains a leader in the use of new technology.

Arlington has a long history of forward-thinking leadership and smart investment leading to vibrant neighborhoods and successful business development. We still, today, speak of the impact that the decision to run Metrorail underground in Arlington has on the Rosslyn-Ballston and Route 1 corridors. Opening to small-cell wireless antennas has the opportunity to make similar, significant, long-term enhancement to the quality of life and economic development of our community. Updating the county's telecommunication infrastructure and network in an expedited manner will allow Arlington to remain competitive in this region.

New and innovative ways to enhance mobile networks are necessary as consumers increase their use of mobile devices to connect to the world around them. Not only do these networks need to be prepared to meet the increasing demand for mobile data, they must be prepared for the next generation of technologies—such as 5G, Smart Cities, and the Internet of Things (IoT). Arlington residents and businesses will wish to be early adopters of these new technologies, and will expect that our local mobile network will be able to provide the capacity and connectivity that they demand. Moreover, as new residents and businesses choose Arlington as a destination, the current network does not have the capacity to handle the new devices they will connect. By finalizing a streamlined permitting and fee structure for small cells, Arlington will create a network that provides faster internet download speeds, improved wireless service, state of the art first responder communication, smart city technology, and eventually, the deployment of 5G technology.

Small cells antennas are a low profile, compact, and unobtrusive technology that can be deployed readily to congested areas, many times on existing structures, to increase network capacity and to provide enhanced voice and data services. The deployment of small cells is necessary for providing a better experience for consumers in Arlington who rely on enhanced mobile networks for work, school, and entertainment. Policies that will encourage investment in small cell infrastructure help us to ensure that our wireless infrastructure keeps up with the demand for mobile technology. Streamlining and standardizing the permitting process for the installation of small cell wireless antennas within the County starts this policy-creation, allowing the placement of small cells to begin.

Arlington has long been a leader in innovation, technology, and connectivity. Our continued success as a top community in which both to live and to do business depends on remaining on the innovation forefront. As such, the Chamber supports the establishment of local policies that promote investment in Arlington's mobile wireless infrastructure, including the deployment of small cells wireless antennas.

I thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates  
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board members Christian Dorsey, Libby Garvey, John Vihstadt, and Erik Gutshall; and County Manager Mark Schwartz