

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: 6/17/97

Reference No.: CR-16-1997

Proposer: Russell

Draft No.: 1

Sponsors: Russell

Item Title: A resolution to request the County Executive to develop and execute a public education plan to inform County residents about the placement of communication towers, poles, and antennae within the County

Drafter: Ralph Grutzmacher
Legislative Officer

Resource Personnel: Debra Boxley
Legislative Aide

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: __/__/__

Executive Action: __/__/__ __

Committee Referral:(1) 3/18/97 THE

Effective Date: __/__/__

Committee Action:(1) 6/5/97 FAV

Date Introduced: 3/18/97

Pub. Hearing Date: (1) __/__/__ __: __ __

Council Action: (1) 6/17/97 ADOPTED

Council Votes: DB:A, SD:AB, JE:A, IG:A, AMc:A, WM:A, RVR:A, AS:A, MW:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE DATE: 6/5/97

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Russell, Scott, Bailey and Estep).

This legislation is requesting the County Executive and the Planning Director of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to develop a public education program to inform the residents of Prince George's County about the placement of communication towers, poles, and antennae.

Terri Ware, representing Office of Management and Budget/Information Technology Division, spoke in support of the educational component, however, is awaiting standards and procedures which

would govern placement of towers and contracting within the County. Olga Norris, representing the County Executive, expressed concern with the Office of the County Executive developing and implementing information on zoning issues. The Office of Law and the Legislative Officer found the bill to be in proper legislative form. Jimi Jones, M-NCPPC has not had opportunity to present this resolution before the Planning Board; however, he expressed budgetary concerns. The Chamber of Commerce opposes this resolution as there is sufficient opportunity for input in the existing process concerning these matters and County resources need to be utilized for this purpose.

James Michal, representing Jackson and Campbell, supports the bill, specifically the educational component but recommends a contact person who will act as a facilitator for the industry in leasing of public land. Mr. Michael currently represents three carriers and tower builders and worked with the M-NCPPC in developing the zoning ordinance to regulate the erection of towers and antennas.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

With the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (PL 104-104) in February, 1996, the Congress allowed local governments to continue to regulate the erection of towers and antenna in a manner that does not discriminate between competing telecommunication providers. The Congress also reserved the regulation of radio frequency emissions to the Federal Communications Commission. The proposed resolution provides for a public education program to explain the division of responsibility for regulating various environmental and land use aspects of an expanding wireless communications system.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: