

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL
2007 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-65-2007
Proposed by The Chairman (by request – County Executive)
Introduced by Council Member Exum
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction September 25, 2007

DISTRICT COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Public Buildings, Structures, and Uses

3 For the purpose of authorizing County construction and use of new radio towers and installation
4 and use of radio system equipment on existing towers, as a mobile radio system, and generally
5 concerning public safety radio towers, radio system equipment, and the land mobile radio system
6 in the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Prince George's County, Maryland.

7 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security has identified public
8 safety communications interoperability as a major objective, to enhance public safety and
9 increase the effectiveness of first responders; and

10 WHEREAS, Prince George's County, Maryland, is authorized and required to construct and
11 operate a new Public Safety Radio System, for telecommunications among and within public
12 safety agencies, as soon as practicable; and

13 WHEREAS, Prince George's County has procured a state-of-the-art digital Trunked Land
14 Mobile Radio System capable of operating in both 700 and 800 MHz frequency bands; and

15 WHEREAS, the design of the Radio System requires the County to construct radio towers
16 in the County, as listed in Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof, and to place Radio
17 System equipment on existing towers in the County, as shown in Exhibit A; and

18 WHEREAS, Section 27-292 of the Zoning Ordinance requires the County Council of
19 Prince George's County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council, to approve, as public
20 buildings, structures, and uses, the construction and use of the new Radio System towers on
21

1 property in the County, and the placement of new Radio System equipment on existing towers in
2 the County, and

3 WHEREAS, on September 24, 2007, the Planning Board transmitted to the District Council
4 its recommendations, after review in public hearing, for the 15 proposed sites for construction
5 and use of new Radio System towers and new Radio System equipment; and

6 WHEREAS, the District Council has considered the recommendations of the Planning
7 Board for each Radio System site, and has also considered the reports and impact studies
8 submitted for the sites by the Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security; and

9 WHEREAS, having reviewed the reports, impact studies, and recommendations of the
10 Planning Board and the County Office of Homeland Security, and having reviewed the location
11 and proposed operation of the towers and equipment at the 15 sites in the Radio System, the
12 District Council has determined that the towers and equipment in the Radio System should be
13 approved, in accordance with Section 27-292 of the Zoning Ordinance, as public buildings,
14 structures, or uses; and

15 WHEREAS, attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A is a complete list of the 15 radio tower
16 and radio equipment sites approved by this action; and

17 WHEREAS, also attached to this Resolution, as Exhibits B-1 through B-15, are the
18 administrative reports and impact studies submitted to the District Council by the County Office
19 of Homeland Security, the studies and reports that show the necessity for the proposed facilities
20 and the lack of reasonable alternative sites for the facilities in Prince George's County; and

21 WHEREAS, as the basis for this action, and in view of the administrative record compiled
22 by the Council for these cases, the District Council makes the following findings:

23 A. General Plan and Master Plan. The General Plan for the Metropolitan-Washington
24 Regional District in Prince George's County, as adopted and approved in 2002, recommends, as a
25 policy, the placement of "public facilities in locations needed to serve existing and future County
26 residents and businesses." The proposed Radio System, the towers to be constructed and
27 equipment to be installed, serve this General Plan policy, as well as County, State, and Federal
28 homeland security goals, purposes, and objectives.

29 B. Project Impacts. The proposed new radio towers and equipment, as the record shows,
30 will have no traffic, noise, or safety effects in any of the neighborhoods where they are proposed.
31 On the five sites where State-owned towers stand or will be constructed, the County equipment

1 to be installed will have virtually no measurable effects, compared to the effects from the
2 existing State towers on which they will be installed.

3 C. Visual Impacts. The only effects to be noted from the ten County-owned structures are
4 visual, or "viewshed" impacts. The Accokeek Volunteer Fire Department tower on Livingston
5 Road is currently opposed by the Mount Vernon Association, because the tower will project
6 above the tree line that provides cover along the Potomac River shoreline. The Henson Creek
7 tower in Suitland is opposed by the National Park Service because the tower will be visible to
8 motorists, residents, and visitors on the Suitland Parkway, a National Register historic site
9 between the District of Columbia and Andrews Air force Base.

10 The District Council agrees that among the new towers, which stand 300 feet or more in
11 height, are several structures that can be seen miles away. At most new tower construction sites,
12 the towers will be by far the highest public or private structures in their neighborhoods. Adverse
13 effects along the shore of the Potomac River are of particular concern.

14 After review of the reports and impact studies in the record, and after full discussion in
15 public session, the District Council concludes that the adverse visual effects of several of the
16 towers – particularly those at Accokeek, Henson Creek, and Eagle Harbor – have been mitigated
17 as well as County contractors can reasonably manage. The record is clear that all of the
18 proposed facilities, including the new towers and the new equipment on existing towers, are
19 needed for the County's Public Safety Radio System; none of the towers can be eliminated, and
20 none can be relocated a substantial distance (1000 feet or more) from their present proposed
21 locations.

22 Since all visual impacts from the existing and proposed towers have been reasonably
23 mitigated, and since it is not possible to relocate or eliminate tower sites without substantially
24 compromising the effectiveness of the Radio System, the Council must conclude that the adverse
25 visual impacts have been reduced to the extent reasonably feasible, and that the towers and
26 equipment present no other substantial adverse effects.

27 D. Availability of Other Sites. As stated throughout the record, the proposed Public Safety
28 Radio System has been designed to replace the existing system with a greatly improved
29 telecommunications network for public safety agencies. The Radio System will be part of the
30 system serving all jurisdictions in Maryland and in the metropolitan Washington region. The 15
31 selected sites cannot reasonably be relocated, without changing the locations of other sites and

1 compromising the effectiveness of the system. The sites chosen for the proposed Radio System,
2 the District Council concludes, are reasonably necessary, and cannot be altered, without
3 substantial adverse consequences to public safety protection.

4 E. Need for the Facilities. The District Council concurs with the County Office of
5 Homeland Security that the proposed Public Safety Radio System is urgently needed, for the
6 protection of the public in Prince George's County, the metropolitan Washington region, and the
7 State of Maryland. The new system, when completed, will replace the limited communications
8 resources now in place; will greatly enhance radio coverage for police, fire, and emergency
9 medical units throughout the County; and will be integrated with public safety radio networks in
10 Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The 15 proposed new tower and equipment
11 sites are needed as soon as reasonably possible, to bring the County's Radio System into
12 operation and enhance local public safety and regional and national security.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
14 County, Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that part of the Maryland-Washington
15 Regional District in Prince George's County, Maryland, that the District Council of Prince
16 George's County, Maryland hereby approves, as public buildings, structures, and uses, in
17 accordance with Sections 27-292 and 27-295 of the Zoning Ordinance, Subtitle 27 of the Prince
18 George's County Code, the 15 sites listed in the attached Exhibit A and Exhibits B-1 through
19 B-15, as Prince George's County's Public Safety Radio System. The Council approves, under
20 Section 27-292, the ten radio towers to be constructed and the five existing tower sites where
21 new radio equipment will be installed.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on the date of its
23 adoption.

Adopted this 2nd day of October, 2007.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S
COUNTY, MARYLAND, SITTING AS THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PART OF
THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL
DISTRICT IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY,
MARYLAND

BY: _____
Camille A. Exum
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

EXHIBIT A

Site	Property Owner	Structure Owner
Jericho Park	City of Bowie	Prince George's County
Trap and Skeet Range	M-NCPPC	Prince George's County
U.S. 50 & 301	M-NCPPC	State of Maryland
Watkins Park	M-NCPPC	Prince George's County
Eagle Harbor (Cedar Haven)	M-NCPPC	Prince George's County
Henson Creek	M-NCPPC	Prince George's County
Accokeek VFD	Volunteer Fire Company	State of Maryland
Dep't. of Corrections Impound Lot	Prince George's County	Prince George's County
Central Communications Facility	Prince George's County	Prince George's County
Tantallon (Fire Station 47)	Prince George's County	State of Maryland
Cheverly	Prince George's County	Prince George's County
Marlboro SHA	State of Maryland	State of Maryland
Cobb SHA	State of Maryland	State of Maryland
Carole Highlands	WSSC	Prince George's County
Temple Hills	WSSC	Prince George's County