



September 12, 2022

The Honorable Gabe Albornoz  
Council President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Albornoz:

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) supports the ZTA 22-01, *Antenna on Existing Structure - Use Standards*. This proposed zoning text amendment would reduce the setback for antennas on existing structures from 60 feet to 30 feet.

ZTA 22-01 addresses inconsistencies in zoning ordinances related to small cell infrastructure. For example, if an applicant needs to install equipment 30 feet from a building, they must install a new pole or a replacement pole. The use of existing poles 30 feet from a building is prohibited. The unintended consequence is that applicants are incentivized to apply for new poles or replacement poles even when there is an existing pole that works just as well. ZTA 22-01 reconciles discrepancies between new, replacement and existing poles by allowing telecommunication facilities on existing poles that are at least 30 feet away from a building. The benefit of this change is the reduced proliferation of infrastructure in the right-of-way.

While ZTA 22-01 is technical in nature its passage will significantly advance the ability to implement 5G technologies in Montgomery County. The small cells that will be enabled because of ZTA 22-01 will add much-needed capacity, which is now a core economic necessity for any jurisdiction, and Montgomery County is no different. The County's economy heavily relies on innovation to create jobs and advance economic activity. The opportunities for innovation and advancement in health care, transportation, public safety, education, manufacturing, entertainment, and many other sectors cannot be understated.

Again, MCCC supports the passage of ZTA 22-01 and as always, we look forward to working with Montgomery County on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Georgette Godwin".

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin  
President & CEO  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members, Montgomery County Council