



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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March 15, 2019

Mr. Matthew Marcou  
Chair, Public Space Committee  
District Department of Transportation  
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20004  
[PublicSpace.Committee@dc.gov](mailto:PublicSpace.Committee@dc.gov)

### **RE: The Public Space Committee's Second Meeting on DC's Proposed Small Cell Guidelines**

Dear Chair Marcou,

On March 4, 2019 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by six commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

Having reviewed the February 1, 2019 version of the Small Design Guidelines (the "Draft Guidelines") proposed by the Public Space Regulation Division of the District Department of Transportation ("DDOT"), ANC 2E has the following comments:

- ANC 2E supports the deployment of true Fifth Generation ("5G") broadband infrastructure that complies with International Industry Standards in the District of Columbia, with the goal of ensuring that residents, businesses, and public safety agencies have reliable access to the latest wireless telecommunications network technology.
- ANC 2E is concerned, however, about the impact the deployment of small cell infrastructure, including, most disturbingly, stand-alone poles, could have on the historic character of Old Georgetown and urges DDOT to give careful consideration to the recommendations that follow, as well to such recommendations as may be submitted by the Citizens Association of Georgetown.
- ANC 2E strongly believes that the Congressionally-designated Old Georgetown Historic District, which is also a National Historic Landmark, should be afforded at least the same protections as the Draft Guidelines provide for the area of the District of Columbia covered by the L'Enfant Plan.

#### COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1    Joe Gibbons, District 2    Rick Murphy, District 3  
Anna Landre, District 4    Lisa Palmer, District 5    Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6  
Elizabeth Miller, District 7    Matias Burdman, District 8

- ANC 2E recommends that small cell infrastructure should be deployed on stand-alone poles in Georgetown **only** as last resort, after all other possible alternatives have been carefully considered and determined to be impractical. In that connection, ANC 2E notes that reasonable, but less intrusive, alternatives may be available, such as deployment of small cell infrastructure in manholes, on rooftops, or in locations where cellular communications equipment is currently installed.
- ANC 2E notes that the Old Georgetown Act, which was enacted in 1950, was intended to protect the Old Georgetown Historic District from the construction or installation of structures that might negatively affect the historic character of Old Georgetown. Therefore, ANC 2E recommends that the Draft Guidelines be reviewed by the Old Georgetown Board and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts before they are finalized. Furthermore, ANC 2E believes that the Guidelines should provide that specific plans for the deployment of small cell infrastructure in locations that are visible from public streets or alleys should be reviewed by ANC 2E, the Old Georgetown Board, and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts before permits that would allow installation are issued by the appropriate agency or agencies of the Government of the District of Columbia.

ANC 2E hereby authorizes Commissioners Joe Gibbons ([2E02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E02@anc.dc.gov)) and Rick Murphy ([2E03@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E03@anc.dc.gov)) to provide specific written recommendations with respect to the deployment of small cell infrastructure to the Public Space Committee and to represent ANC 2E at the public meeting of the Public Space Committee scheduled for March 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." in a cursive script.

Rick Murphy  
Chair, ANC 2E