

To: Montgomery County Councilmembers, County Executive, County Clerk
From: Anna Olsson, Silver Spring, MD

Subject: ZTA 22-01, if passed, will increase inequality and harm residents in Montgomery County

September 8, 2022

Councilmembers et al.:

Please add this to the official testimony for opposition to ZTA 22-01.

There is overwhelming evidence, documented in hundreds of peer-reviewed articles, that radiofrequency / microwave (RF/MW) radiation is harmful to human health. As documented by countless testimonies by Montgomery County residents during previous public hearings on Zoning Text Amendments that relate to cell tower placement, you must be aware of this, and if you continue to ignore this overwhelming evidence, you are violating your Oath of Office in the most serious way, willfully harming your constituents.

It is beyond my ability to comprehend why you would pursue this Zoning Text Amendment at a time when our County is experiencing unprecedented health issues among its residents, and when we are entering what may be the most significant energy crisis most of us have experienced in our lifetime.

Why would you even consider a Zoning Text Amendment that would allow - probably even encourage - cell service providers to litter our county with what the WHO has classified as a Class 2 carcinogen - a known toxin - in allowing cell antennas to be placed on utility poles just 30 feet from homes, with no recourse, and no way of getting away from 24/7 radiation? You need to regulate to *protect* your residents from this toxin, not open the floodgates to the corporations to freely and unlimitedly expose us to it!

Furthermore, by passing ZTA 22-01, you will deliberately or inadvertently cause both energy use and energy costs to skyrocket across our County. According to the 2020 report "Operators facing power cost crunch" By Matt Walker for industry analyst firm MTN Consulting "A typical 5G base station consumes up to twice or more the power of a 4G base station. The disparity can grow at higher frequencies, due to a need for more antennas and a denser layer of small cells. Edge compute facilities needed to support local processing and new Internet of things (IoT) services add to overall network power usage. The bottom line is that, in an increasingly 5G world, telcos will face significant growth in their energy bills."

How will an ever-increasing power use of thousands of new antennas for more devices with higher frequencies affect the cell phone bills of Montgomery County residents? You bet it will lead to an increased digital divide!

In addition to the recklessness of the proposed Zoning Text Amendment, you have also been made aware numerous times prior by residents testifying in Public Hearings that there is actually a cheaper, safer, faster, more energy efficient solution to providing connectivity to all Montgomery County Residents: Finish building out the fiber-optic network that we have all been paying the telecom corporations for over the last several years through added taxes on our bills. The fact that you are ignoring this opportunity while stubbornly pushing more and more invasive ZTAs could not make it any clearer who you truly represent through your actions: Corporations. We see what you are doing, and we will hold you accountable. Abolish ZTA 22-01 and start regulating the Telecom Corporations to serve and protect your constituents!

Anna Olsson
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