

## ZTA 25-11, Temporary Commercial Uses – Temporary Telecommunications Facility Montgomery County Council September 16, 2025 Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Montgomery County, supports ZTA 25-11, *Temporary Commercial Uses – Temporary Telecommunications Facility*. ZTA 25-11 seeks to create a Temporary Telecommunications Facility limited in all zones, defined as a monopole or portable wireless communications facility that does not have a permanent location on the ground. The ZTA provides that this new use will be permitted for 180 days, or up to two years with extensions.

This ZTA is a long overdue solution that enhances both public safety and business continuity in times of urgent need. From a public safety standpoint, ZTA 25-11 ensures rapid deployment of critical communications infrastructure during emergencies such as natural disasters, declared government emergencies, or major public events. Reliable wireless service is essential for first responders, emergency alerts, and community coordination, especially when permanent infrastructure is damaged or overwhelmed. By allowing easier access to create temporary facilities, the County can maintain connectivity when it matters most.

For the business community, this ZTA supports operational resilience and economic activity. Temporary telecommunications facilities help ensure uninterrupted service for employees, customers, and vendors. Not only does it ensure uninterrupted service during emergency situations, but it also guarantees that large events can operate in what is an increasingly digital economy. For example, venues today are opting for electronic tickets versus paper tickets, and patrons often pay with their "wallet" kept safe on their cellphone. All of this requires reliable access to cell service. Even short-term disruptions in connectivity can result in significant financial losses and reputational harm. ZTA 25-11 provides a flexible, responsive framework to meet these challenges head-on.

MCCC supports the approval of ZTA 25-11 and looks forward to continued collaboration on initiatives that move Montgomery County forward.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), established in 1959, is an independent non-profit membership organization. MCCC advocates on behalf of our members for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success.