

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]

December 1, 2016

By Email to councilmember.riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov
county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Councilmember Hans Riemer
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Request for Engagement of Outside Consultant Services

Dear Councilmember Riemer, the PHED Committee, and the Montgomery County Council:

On behalf of numerous Montgomery County residents, I am very pleased to announce the formation of the Montgomery County Coalition to Control Cell Towers (the "MC4T"), a conglomeration of communities, homeowners associations, civics and citizens associations, and individual citizens sharing a voice and a purpose relating to the impending influx of cell towers in Montgomery County. The current members of the MC4T are listed at the conclusion of this correspondence and, to date, account for more than 30,000 Montgomery County citizens. Membership in the MC4T continues to grow daily and at an impressively rapid rate.

The MC4T appreciates that the Montgomery County Council previously proposed an amendment to its laws (Zoning Text Amendment 16-05, or "ZTA 16-05") in an effort to provide better protection to its constituents from countless new cell towers around the county. The MC4T is also aware that the Montgomery County Council recently withdrew ZTA 16-05. Now, the MC4T remains concerned that Montgomery County citizens lack an appropriate level of protection against the impending installation of these towers. The MC4T understands that the existing laws do afford the citizens a much greater scope of protection than is currently being provided.

For these reasons, the MC4T ardently recommends that the Montgomery County Council construct an ordinance that will provide the citizens the maximum protection afforded under the law which, at the same time, neither interferes with the permitted deployment of telecommunications networks nor makes their installation commercially impracticable. In order to effectuate that proposition, the MC4T advises that the County Council engage an outside consultant expert in the industry to assist. The MC4T has thoroughly researched and now

unequivocally endorses the Center for Municipal Solutions (“CMS”) as the best fit for this endeavor. The County Council can review and examine CMS, its key team members, and its wealth of experience at www.telecomsol.com. In addition to its immeasurable skills in drafting legislation, CMS also maintains tremendous proficiency in examining formal cell tower applications.

The MC4T finds CMS to provide two key advantages: (1) it will work with the County Legislature and citizens to draft a new ordinance that further accentuates protections to the citizens while allowing the telecommunications industry to successfully deploy its network, and (2) it has the telecommunications expertise to process hundreds of individual cell tower applications in an efficient and timely manner on case-by-case basis. Currently, a sizable portion of the citizenry does not feel party to the process; CMS would ensure that all voices are heard.


The MC4T firmly believes that now is the time for the Montgomery County Council to act. The County Council invited its citizens to help it find a resolution. The engagement of an outside expert consultant, and specifically CMS, will greatly benefit all parties involved. It will benefit the constituents by giving them the strongest level of protection they seek against the invasion of unsightly cell towers, and by further demonstrating to them that their voice is in fact being heard. It will benefit the telecommunications industry by putting an end to the ongoing delays, and by allowing it to start formally filing its applications and deploying its network. Finally, it will benefit the Montgomery County Council by significantly minimizing the fierce public scrutiny, and by providing it the conciliatory resolution it has long sought in the matter.

The MC4T looks forward to continued progress, and will gladly interact with the Montgomery County Council, the telecommunications industry, outside expert consultants, and/or whoever else is deemed necessary to help further advance its cause. Should you have any questions or concerns about the MC4T and its goals, we encourage you to contact us.

Sincerely,

Montgomery County Coalition to Control Cell Towers

By: 

Andrew N. Spivak, Esq. 
MC4T Member
Resident of Stonebridge Community
North Potomac, Maryland