


FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 TH FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	BMZA / 5 – 7 North Paca Street		

TO

Mr. David Tanner, Executive Director
Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
417 East Fayette Street, 14th Floor

DATE: January 31, 2013

REQUEST

The Department of Planning has received Paul Whitley's Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) conditional use application, on behalf of Sprint Nextel, to construct a new telecommunications facility with 12 antennas and related equipment atop an existing building. We understand that this appeal is scheduled for hearing on February 5, 2013.

SITE

5 – 7 North Paca Street is located on the southeast corner of the intersection with Fayette Street. This property measures approximately 254'6" along Paca Street by 301'6" along Fayette Street and is currently improved with a nine-level parking garage building covering the entire lot. This site is zoned B-4-2 and is located within the Market Center Urban Renewal Plan area and the Market Center National Register Historic District.

ANALYSIS

Conditional Use: In this zoning district, antenna towers, microwave relay towers, and similar installations for communications transmission or receiving, are a conditional use, requiring approval by the Board (§6-508).

Urban Renewal Plan: This property is located in the Market Center Urban Renewal Area, where the Urban Renewal Plan does not prohibit or further restrict the proposed use in this district.

Neighborhood Impact: There should be minimal impact, if any, on the surrounding area or community, due to the height of the existing building on the subject property, the size of the antennas, and the height at which they will be placed.

Co-location: In order to minimize the number of antenna towers and monopoles constructed throughout the City of Baltimore, the Department of Planning has adopted a policy of co-location. When our Department receives applications for antenna towers or monopoles, staff encourages the applicant to design a structure that can accommodate several other wireless technology providers. This co-location of antennas minimizes the number of antenna towers or monopoles needed throughout Baltimore City.

Historical and Architectural Preservation: The Historical and Architectural Preservation Division of the Department of Planning has reviewed the application and determined that the proposed location is:

- A property, or within a district, listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
- A property, or within a district, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Planning recommends approval of this appeal, subject to these conditions:

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- ~~The antennas and related equipment must be painted to match the building, to ensure they~~
are visually unobtrusive; and
 - The panel antennas and related equipment will remain mounted as illustrated in the plans and elevations submitted to Planning; and
 - The applicant will adequately mitigate any adverse effect as specified in the report of the Historical and Architectural Preservation Division of the Department of Planning in accordance with that report's recommendations.

TJS/wya/mf

cc: Paul Whitley, Appellant