

TJS

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	BMZA / 501 North Athol Avenue		

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

DATE: May 23, 2012

### REQUEST

The Department of Planning has received Cricket Communications, Inc.'s Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) application to install three antennas on an existing tower, and an equipment cabinet at its base. We understand that this appeal is scheduled for hearing on May 29, 2012.

### SITE

501 North Athol Avenue is located on the southeast side of the intersection with Edmondson Avenue. This property contains approximately 26.04 acres, and is currently improved with a public school, and a telecommunications antenna tower and related ground equipment inside a fenced compound. This site is zoned R-6 and is located within the Edmondson Village Area Master Plan area.

### 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 (§4-903).

Neighborhood Impact: There should be minimal impact, if any, on the surrounding area or community, due to the height of the existing tower 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 not:

- On a Baltimore City Landmark property list or within a Baltimore City Historical and Architectural Preservation District
- 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 the appeal, subject to these conditions:

- The antennas and related equipment must be painted to match the tower, 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.

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cc: Cricket Communications, Inc., Appellant