

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 / 1105-1115 Light Street		

TO

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

DATE:

June 27, 2014

REQUEST

The Department of Planning has received Jack Andrews' Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) application, on behalf of Verizon Wireless, to install 15 antennas and related equipment on the roof of an existing apartment building. The Zoning Administrator has determined that this is a conditional use in a B-2 Zoning District. We understand that this appeal is scheduled for hearing on July 1, 2014.

SITE

1105-1115 Light Street is located on the east side of the street, approximately 38' south of the intersection with Cross Street, and extends through to the north side of Weber Street and the west side of William Street. This property measures approximately 129'8" along Light Street and 240' along Weber Street and 51' along William Street, and contains approximately 0.947 acre, and is currently improved with a combination four- and seven-story residential mixed-use building covering approximately 95% of the lot. This site is zoned B-2-3 and is located within the South Baltimore Business Area Urban Renewal Plan area and the Federal Hill South 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 (§6-308). The applicant has provided drawings showing parts of the wireless facility would be located on the rooftop of the four-story portion of the combined structure, along its Light Street frontage, and other parts on the rooftop of the seven-story portion of the combined structure, along its Weber Street frontage and in the inner portion of the rooftop away from Weber and William Streets.

Urban Renewal Plan: This property is located in the Baltimore Business Area 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.

TransForm Baltimore: This property would become part of a C-1 District (Proposed Zoning Map Area 14-B) in which wireless telecommunications antennas that comply with stealth design standards would be permitted uses; if not so complying, they would be conditional uses (Table 10-301).

RECOMMENDATION

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

- 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: Jack Andrews, Appellant