



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

August 27, 2015

REQUEST: City Council Bill #15-0551/ Franchise – Crown Castle NG Atlantic, LLC:

For the purpose of granting a franchise to Crown Castle NG Atlantic LLC, a Virginia limited liability company, to construct, install, maintain, repair, operate, relocate, replace, and remove certain facilities relating to the provision of a Distributed Antenna Systems services in and across certain streets and public ways, subject to certain terms and conditions; and providing for a special effective date.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Eric Tiso

PETITIONER: The Administration, on behalf of the Department of Transportation (DOT)

HISTORY

- On June 11, 2015, the Planning Commission recommended amendment and approval of City Council Bill #15-0528, which was for a Franchise for Extenet Systems, Inc. That Ordinance has been enacted as of August 17, 2015.

ANALYSIS

Proposal: Crown Castle NG Atlantic LLC (Crown Castle) provides services to third-party wireless carriers by providing the infrastructure that those carriers can use to provide additional wireless connectivity and capacity to their systems. This request for a franchise will allow Crown Castle to attach Distributed Antennas Systems (DAS) equipment to publically owned infrastructure, such as street light poles, that are connected to conduit that links several of these individual nodes to a service hub in a building that connects to the wireless carrier's system.

Staff understands that the Franchise will be for a ten year period, with three five-year renewals at \$100 per year. Each installation will require a separate attachment agreement, conduit lease agreement, and that all costs will be borne by Crown Castle (to include working directly with BGE for power). Additionally, an application fee of \$500 per attachment will be required, as well as a per-pole fee of \$2,400 for the first 25 poles, on a sliding scale down to \$1,200 per pole for 451+ poles.

Design: The DAS installations will most typically include an electric meter and disconnect box, a control box attached to the light pole, with a panel antenna array at the top of the pole. The panel antenna array will be a group of three antennas, each measuring 12” in width by 23.2” in height. Each individual installation will require a separate attachment agreement between Crown Castle and DOT. DAS is helpful when towers or rooftop installations are not practical, and in areas where additional capacity is required, such as major venues with large crowds.

In the previous Franchise bill, staff had requested an amendment to provide for design review by Planning staff, to ensure that there will be a means of reaching out to, and receiving comments from, the public that may be impacted by each installation. This bill includes the design review language amendment in the previous bill:

“Franchisee shall cooperate with the City on all issues of aesthetics and appearance and *shall obtain design and location approval from the Planning Department* for all attachments that are subject to this Agreement.” (cf. Bill page 11, lines 34-37, emphasis added).

Community Notification: Notice this Planning Commission hearing was delivered to approximately 6,076 e-mail addresses through the GovDelivery service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Stosur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas J. Stosur
Director