


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	William M. Johnson, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 East Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 15-0596		

TO The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin
Room 400 City Hall

March 23, 2016

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 15-0596, Franchise - Mobilitie, for the purpose of granting a franchise Mobilitie, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company with business headquarters in California, 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.


The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports this bill with amendments as proposed by the Law Department. The amendments clarify that this franchise agreement is for Small Cell nodes not Distributed Antenna System nodes.

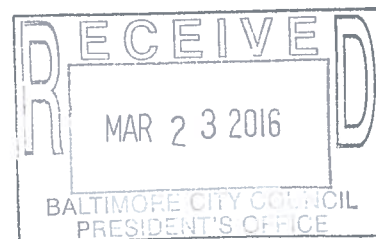
“Small Cell” is a wireless communication technology installation that employs low powered wireless base stations to provide telecommunication services for a single service provider such as Mobility. This technology serves a smaller geographical area than that provided by a single node in a distributed antenna system. The typical service area for a small cell is about 150 feet, depending on the landscape of where it is deployed.

The City will receive monetary compensation and the public benefits of improved wireless cellular service in Baltimore by virtue of this franchise. Although the franchise fee in this agreement is limited to \$100 annually, the franchise agreement also requires Mobilitie to execute a separate Attachment Agreement through the Board of Estimates for each streetlight pole installation. If needed, the provider will execute a Conduit Lease Agreement with DOT to accommodate needed fiber installation. Finally, the provider is responsible for providing professionally engineered plans for and completing any construction necessary to accommodate the attachments, which may include replacing and/or improving streetlight poles in some instances. This franchise provides many benefits to the people of Baltimore, including revenue generation, improved cellular services, and expanded public telecommunications infrastructure.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,


William M. Johnson
Director



WMJ/BSZ

Cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison

Fav w/ comments