


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 15-0551		

TO

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

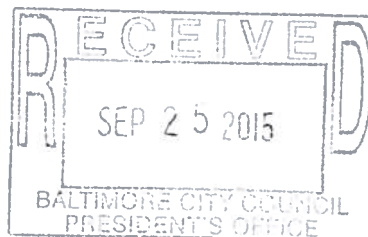
September 17, 2015

I am herein reporting on 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 (DAS) 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.

A DAS network comprises spatially separated antenna nodes connected by fiber, typically designed to facilitate wireless communications services for multiple wireless telecommunications carriers. In addition to antennas and optical fiber, a DAS network deployment includes wires, coaxial cable, mounting hardware, power boxes, equipment boxes, cabinets and other electronic equipment used for transmitting and receiving wireless telecommunications services over the radio frequencies licensed to the DAS carrier by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Many DAS operators are specialty providers that lease access to wireless carriers such as AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon Wireless. DAS networks are deployed to address consumers' increasing capacity requirements within an area smaller than that served by a cellular tower. The DAS equipment, in the case of this particular franchise agreement, will be installed on City-owned streetlight poles.

The City will receive monetary compensation, in-kind contribution of dark fiber, 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 Crown Castle to execute a separate Attachment Agreement through the Board of Estimates for each streetlight pole installation. Through the Attachment Agreement, the provider will annually pay \$2,400 per pole for the first 25 poles; 1 - 25: 26 - 100, \$2,100 per pole; 101 - 200, \$1,700 per pole; 201-300, \$1,500 per pole; 301-400, \$1,300 per pole; 401-500, \$1,100 per pole; and 451+, \$ 900 per pole. This sliding scale is designed to incentivize citywide deployment of the publicly beneficial technology. In addition, the Attachment Agreement will require each provider to give the City two strands of dark fiber per pole installation. The City can use this fiber for any purpose, including but not limited to public wifi, public safety radio and other communication technologies, and connections for cameras and traffic signals. Also, the provider will execute a Conduit Lease Agreement with DOT to accommodate the 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.



W/comm

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "W" and "J".

William M. Johnson
Director

WMJ/BSZ

Cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison