

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: C(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

TITLE: A MINOR MODIFICATION TO THE CROWN CASTLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT- 625 OLD FAYETTEVILLE ROAD

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING DEPARTMENT	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ No _X_
ATTACHMENTS: A. PLANS B. RESOLUTION C. LETTER CONCERNING ANTENNA INTERFERENCE D. LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION E. LETTER FROM TOWN CONSULTANT DEALING WITH ELECTROMAGNETIC SAFETY	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: JAMES THOMAS- 918-7335

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Cricket Communications has applied for a minor modification to the Crown Castle Telecommunications Tower located at 625 Old Fayetteville Road. The Crown Castle Telecommunications Tower was last amended on March 21st, 2006(to allow the installation of an additional antenna to the tower as well as installing equipment within the existing fenced in area). The proposed minor modification consists of the addition of new antennas to the tower as well as installing equipment (7 foot x 14 leased area) within the existing fenced in area at the base of the tower. Per Section 15-176 (15) of the Land Use Ordinance (LUO), additional antenna arrays located on existing towers must be approved through the minor modification process. The town staff requests that the Board of Aldermen review the request and make a decision regarding the minor modification.

INFORMATION

Cricket Communications has applied for a minor modification to the Crown Castle Telecommunications Tower located at 625 Old Fayetteville Road. The proposed minor modification consists of the addition of new antennas to the tower as well as installing equipment within the existing fenced in area at the base of the tower. No grading and only minimal site work will be necessary as a result of this proposed minor modification. All work will take place on the tower and inside the existing fenced in area at the base of the tower.

Section 15-176 of the LUO contains certain requirements that pertain to towers, certain requirements that pertain to antennas and certain requirements that pertain to both. Sections 15-176 (3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, and 13) of the LUO are specifically applicable to the minor modification request. The applicant has supplied the Zoning Division a letter (**Attachment C**) that satisfies the requirements of Section 15-176. The letter states that the antenna and equipment will not interfere with the use or operation of radios, televisions, telephones, etc. on adjoining or nearby properties. The applicant also states that no commercial advertising will be placed on the tower, no outdoor storage will take place on the site, equipment will be removed if unused for a period of six months or more, and that the site will not be used as an employment area (office) with the exception of periodic maintenance or monitoring.

In order to satisfy the requirements of Section 15-176 (6) of the LUO, the applicant has stated that the amount of EMF produced by the proposed antenna and equipment does not exceed the federally approved levels. William Joines, the Town's cellular tower consultant, reviewed the proposed co-location and stated that the ground-level power density produced by all transmitters on the tower would be well below approved safety guidelines (**Attachment E**).

The information presented on the plans and in the letters demonstrates compliance with the requirements of the LUO for minor modifications to existing towers. As a result, the Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen approve the minor modification to the Crown Castle Telecommunications Tower located at 625 Old Fayetteville Road to allow Cricket Communications to install additional antennas on the tower, and to install additional equipment within the fenced in area at the base of the tower.

RECOMMENDATION

The town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution (**Attachment B**) approving the minor modification to the Crown Castle Telecommunications Tower located at 625 Old Fayetteville Road to allow Cricket Communications to install additional antennas on the tower, and to install equipment within the existing fenced in area at the base of the tower.