



12110 Sunset Hills Rd., Suite 100
Reston, VA 20191
703-620-2555

November 21, 2014

The Honorable Emmett V Jordan
Mayor, Greenbelt City Council
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Mayor Jordan,

It has come to my attention that the Greenbelt City Council is preparing to consider a petition to ban cell phone towers from school properties in the Greenbelt area. I am writing to ask that you delay any action until we have had an opportunity to brief the council on both the benefits and safety of cell phone towers.

Milestone Communications, Inc. is a successful Virginia-based firm with over 14 years of experience partnering with schools, parks, governments and utilities in siting wireless towers to provide local communities high-speed, wireless, broadband communication. Milestone currently operates in 35 cities, towns and school districts throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

Milestone's business model is unique in that it is designed specifically to create public/private partnerships with municipalities and schools so they can financially benefit from the revenues generated by the placement and operation of local wireless towers. There are four reasons why this model works:

- To meet local consumer and educator demands for greater access to wireless and cellular broadband networks, wireless providers increasingly look for non-intrusive ways to extend greater network access to residential areas.
- Of the potential sites available, government and school sites are preferable to communities because they are generally larger than private sites, have the potential to reduce the visual impact of the towers on the surrounding neighborhood, and have zoning codes amenable to siting a facility.
- Schools and communities, in turn, benefit from the partnership by tapping into much needed revenue outside their local tax base. This can be a substantial resource to schools and communities as Milestone shares 40% of the gross receipts collected from wireless providers with its school and community partners.
- The science on the safety of cell tower emissions is clear. While public anxiety around this issue over the past three decades has been understandable, it also has produced a wealth of scientific research that should put to rest any remaining doubts about public safety and cell towers.
- Here is a summary of the findings by the nation's leading guardians of public safety:



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American Cancer Society ¹

"Some people have expressed concern that living, working, or going to school near a cell phone tower might increase the risk of cancer or other health problems. At this time, there is very little evidence to support this idea. In theory, there are some important points that would argue against cellular phone towers being able to cause cancer."

Federal Communications Commission ²

"Radiofrequency emissions from antennas used for cellular and PCS transmissions result in exposure levels on the ground that are typically thousands of times below safety limits. These safety limits were adopted by the FCC based on the recommendations of expert organizations and endorsed by agencies of the Federal Government responsible for health and safety. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that such towers could constitute a potential health hazard to nearby residents or students."

U.S. Food and Drug Administration ³

"Over the past 15 years, scientists have conducted hundreds of studies looking at the biological effects of the radiofrequency energy emitted by cell phones. While some researchers have reported biological changes associated with RF energy, these studies have failed to be replicated. The majority of studies published have failed to show an association between exposure to radiofrequency from a cell phone and health problems."

"The RF exposures people experience from base stations are typically much lower than from cell phones because base station antennas are mounted on towers or other building structures and are thus substantially farther away from the public. Both cell phones and base stations are required to comply with FCC RF exposure guidelines."

Again, I hope that before the Council makes any decision related to this subject, we be granted an opportunity to state our case so that schools in your community may benefit from such public/private partnerships. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Len Forkas, President
Milestone Communications, Inc.
(703)615-3010

¹ American Cancer Society website: <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/othercarcinogens/athome/cellular-phone-towers>

² Federal Communications Commission <http://transition.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety/ef-faqs.html#Q15>

³ U.S. Food and Drug Administration <http://www.fda.gov/Radiation-EmittingProducts/RadiationEmittingProductsandProcedures/HomeBusinessandEntertainment/CellPhones/ucm116282.htm>