

WESTSIDE REGIONAL ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS

BEL AIR-BEVERLY CREST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DEL REY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER-PLAYA
PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PALMS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SOUTH ROBERTSON NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL
VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
WEST LA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
WESTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

May 8, 2012

VIA E-MAIL

City Attorney Carmen Trutanich
ctrutanich@lacity.org

Assistant City Attorney Ted Jordan
ted.jordan@lacity.org

Re: Council File #09-2645 - Cell Tower Regulation/AGF Ordinance Revision

Dear Mr. Trutanich and Mr. Jordan:

As you are aware, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a regional coalition of 13 member neighborhood and community councils from Council Districts 5 and 11 (the Westside of Los Angeles). In 2010, WRAC unanimously passed a motion calling for comprehensive revision of the City's cell tower regulations.

As you are also aware, in July 2011, the Public Works and Planning and Land Use Committees (the Committees) directed your office to draft revisions to the Above Ground Facilities (AGF) Ordinance within 60 days (in accord with the City's Attorney's Report issued to the Committees in June 2011 – Report #11-0213). On December 2, 2011, I wrote to you requesting an update on the status of the AGF Ordinance revisions. Mr. Jordan replied to my letter on December 12, 2011, stating that he was gathering input and that he hoped to return to the Committees "soon in the new year" with more specific proposals for revisions.

We are now well into the new year and 9 months from the time of the Committees' directive, with no word on the status of the revisions. I am informed that your office has not responded to recent inquiries about this matter from Council District 11 staff and other concerned community leaders.

The installation of wireless telecommunication facilities (cell towers) is ongoing in the PROW throughout the Westside of Los Angeles. Residents and community leaders continue to express concern because of the current inadequate notice and aesthetic provisions and the exemptions for utility and light poles (all of which the City Attorney's Report recommended be revised and/or eliminated). Moreover, we are informed that telecom companies are installing even more obtrusive multiple antennas on new and existing facilities in the PROW – not the small antennas which some had hoped would replace larger antennas. In fact, Bureau of Engineering administrator Jeff LaDou publicly testified at a Board of Public Works meeting on April 11, 2012, that AT&T is planning to install new multiple antennas *10 feet in length* in the City's PROW.

While we understand the demands placed on the City Attorney's office due to budgeting constraints, we believe that it is time for you to complete the long-awaited revisions. I would appreciate a response at your earliest opportunity with a specific indication of when we can expect the Ordinance revisions to be completed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Newhouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "N".

Mike Newhouse
Chair

Cc: WRAC Delegates and Alternates
Jane Usher, Special Assistant City Attorney
Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, CD 11
Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD 5
Councilmember Ed Reyes, Chair, PLUM Committee
Councilmember Jose Huizar, Chair, Public Works Committee
Chris Spitz, PPCC