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March 6, 2018

Via E-mail and U.S.P.S.
Councilmember Mike Bonin
200 N. Spring Street #475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CF 09-2645, Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (“WTF”s)

Dear Councilmember Bonin:

During the past month, hundreds of Del Rey residents have expressed concern that WTFs are being hung on utility poles outside of people’s bedroom windows with no notice or hearing. The utility boxes that are needed to activate the WTFs are also a concern because although permits are required, the boxes can explode if they catch fire, and in parts of Del Rey, the high water table creates a risk of water intrusion into the vaults.

Council File 09-2645 has been under consideration for nearly a decade, and although all of the neighborhood councils and community councils/associations on the Westside have expressed support for the proposed ordinance, it still has not become law in Los Angeles. We urge you to persuade the City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management (“PLUM”) and Public Works and Gang Reduction (“PWGR”) Committees to take up and approve this ordinance, which would give the City of Los Angeles some ability to regulate the aesthetics of WTFs.

The ability to regulate aesthetics is important because it affects when a WTF modification will be deemed “substantial.” Under new state rules, if the modification application falls within the “substantial” threshold, approval is mandatory, and under Federal Communications Commission rules, an existing installation could increase in

height by up to 10 feet and six feet in each direction without qualifying as a "substantial" modification. (Imagine if that happened on a telephone pole in front of your home.)

Fortunately, the FCC rules also provide that a modification will be deemed "substantial" if it violates local concealment rules, and last summer, the City of Santa Monica redefined its concealment rules so the city could maintain control over possible expansion of the WTFs. The City of Los Angeles should do the same by passing CF 09-2645.

Our most recent concerns have involved WTFs installed in residential areas (specifically, 12732 Gilmore Avenue and 4631 Alla Road #7) but the City also needs to clarify the rules for WTFs in areas zoned for manufacturing and commercial, especially because there are now homes and schools in those zones. Last month, the City Planning Department granted a conditional use permit for a Verizon WTF that will install 12 new eight foot long antennae, eight Remote Radio Units and three ray caps atop the three story building at 6700 South Centinela, across Jefferson Blvd. from several apartment buildings. (Case No. ZA 2017-3877 (CUW)).

We know that residential property values are affected negatively when WTFs are installed, and the health effects of the WTFs on our residents will not be known until the WTFs are placed into service. However, the City of Los Angeles should not abdicate its power to regulate public rights of way. The City Council should enact CF 09-2645.

At our March 5, 2018, board meeting, we voted unanimously to send this letter.

Very truly yours,

DEL REY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Elizabeth A. Pollock
President

cc: Via E-mail only
State Senator Ben Allen
Assemblymember Autumn Burke
Mayor Eric Garcetti
Ted Jordan, Deputy City Attorney

Hui Huang, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works
Krista Kline, CD 11 Planning
Chuy Orozco, CD 11 Del Rey Deputy
Gary Walker, The Argonaut
PLUM and PWGR committees
Michael Espinosa, PLUM legislative assistant
Sharon Dickinson, PWGR legislative assistant
Donald Wardson, Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Matt Wersinger, Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils land use committee
Janet D'Oliviera