



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of April 19, 2008**

DATE: April 3, 2008

SUBJECT: U-3122-05-1 USE PERMIT REVIEW for a single pole antenna located at 4805 Wilson Blvd. (Fire Station #2) (RPC # 14-057-007, 015).

Applicant:

Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
Arlington County Government
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201

C.M. RECOMMENDATION:

Renew the subject use permit for a single pole antenna, subject to all previous conditions, with a County Board review in five (5) years (April 2013).

ISSUES: This is a review of a use permit for a single pole antenna and no issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The subject use permit is for a single pole antenna operated by the Arlington County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and approved by the County Board on April 16, 2005. The single pole antenna operates in compliance with approved use permit conditions and County regulations. Therefore, staff recommends renewal of the subject use permit for a single pole antenna, subject to all previous conditions, and with a County Board review in five (5) years (April 2013).

BACKGROUND: The subject 49-foot tall fiberglass single pole transmitting antenna is owned and operated by OEM. The antenna transmits a radio signal that can be heard on 1700AM, also known as "1700AM Arlington". The antenna transmits up-to-the-minute information during an incident or emergency. The need for such an antenna was identified by citizen advocacy through the County Manager appointed Citizen Corps Council (CCC). According to engineering studies conducted by consultants to the Arlington County Department of Technology Services, Fire Station #2 offers an ideal location from which to transmit an AM radio signal.

DISCUSSION: The subject single pole antenna is located at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and North George Mason Drive, across from the western parking area of Fire Station #2. The

County Manager: _____

Staff: Roberto Ruiz, DCPHD, Planning Division

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antenna complies with use permit conditions requiring that the antenna be made unobtrusive by surrounding it with a wood fence and that adjacent landscaping be maintained.

Since County Board Approval (April 16, 2005):

Use Permit Conditions: The single pole antenna operates in compliance with the approved use permit conditions.

Community Code Enforcement: The Code Enforcement Office reports that there are no complaints or violations on this site.

Fire Marshal's Office: The Fire Marshal's Office has not reported any issues regarding the continuation of this use.

Police Department: The Police Department reports no issues regarding the continuation of this use.

Civic Association: The site is located in the Bluemont Civic Association. The civic association reports support for the continuation of this use permit (see attached).

CONCLUSION: The single pole antenna operates in compliance with approved use permit conditions. The wood fence and landscaping surrounding the single pole antenna is well maintained and in compliance with County regulations. The antenna does not adversely impact the neighborhood and is a vital part of the County's public emergency communication system. Staff has not received any complaints regarding the continuation of this use. Therefore, staff recommends renewal of the use permit for a single pole antenna, subject to all previous conditions, with a County Board review in five (5) years (April 2013).

PREVIOUS COUNTY BOARD ACTIONS:

April 16, 2005

Approved use permit U-3122-05-1 for a single pole antenna, subject to conditions and a one (1) year administrative review (April 2006) and a County Board review in three (3) years (April 2008). The administrative review was not done in 2006.

Approved Conditions:

1. The applicant shall submit a site development plan that meets the requirements of the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance with regard to the wood screening fences and restoration of lawn area for approval by the County Manager or his designee prior to the issuance of any permits.
2. The applicant agrees to limit the monopole height to no greater than 50 feet including the base and to paint the proposed monopole a color that matches the surrounding light poles to minimize the visual impact.
3. The applicant agrees to maintain the monopole structure, the wood screening fence, and any surrounding landscaping in good condition.
4. The applicant shall identify a community liaison who shall be available to address any concerns regarding the facility operation. The name and telephone number of the liaison shall be provided to the Bluemont Civic Association and the Zoning Administrator.