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# Committee Resolutions

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## PLANNING & ZONING

### P&Z-2011-010: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DISTRIBUTED ANTENNA SYSTEMS FOR CELL COVERAGE IN THE MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

- 1) **WHEREAS** many areas of Mount Vernon District are predominantly residentially zoned; and
  - 2) **WHEREAS** many areas of Mount Vernon District have historic character and structures; and
  - 3) **WHEREAS** telecommunications towers may impact environmentally sensitive areas in parkland by creating land disturbance and destroying wildlife habitat; and
  - 4) **WHEREAS** an alternative known as Distributed Antenna System (DAS) can be located on sites not suitable for towers because of DAS technology's flexible architecture and ability to house base station equipment as far as 10 miles from node locations; and
  - 5) **WHEREAS** DAS technology utilizes a combination of existing utility poles, short DAS poles, and disguised antennas to provide adequate cell phone coverage without unduly negatively impacting the historic nature, residential character, community aesthetics and quality of life, property values, and health concerns of surrounding neighborhoods; and
  - 6) **WHEREAS** the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit District Court has required, pursuant to its recently handed down decision in New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mobility v. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1:2010cv00283, that telecommunications carriers evaluate Distributed Antenna Systems as an alternative technology;
- A) THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS** supports and encourages the implementation of a suitably designed Distributed Antenna System or similar low-visual-impact wireless network by Fairfax County if implemented comprehensively throughout residentially zoned areas of the Mount Vernon District as a preferred solution to cell coverage needs identified by its residents, and as a way to avoid locating towers in parks, refuges and natural areas.
- B) BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission approve cell phone towers in residential zones only where a Distributed Antenna System is proven to be infeasible.

**END: MVCCA RESOLUTION P&Z-2011-010**