

**Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase  
Emergency Ordinance to Regulate  
Small Wireless Telecommunications Facilities in the Rights-of-Way**

Resolution No.: 5-18-1  
Re-Introduced: January 8, 2019  
Adopted:  
Effective Date:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 13 TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADOPT REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF SMALL WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

WHEREAS, Maryland Code, Local Government Article, Section 5-202, as amended, grants to the legislative body of every incorporated municipality in Maryland general power to pass such ordinances not contrary to the Constitution of Maryland, or the public general law, as deemed necessary in order to assure the good government of the municipality, to protect and preserve the municipality's rights, property, and privileges, to preserve peace and good order, to secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the municipality;

WHEREAS, United States Code, Title 47, Section 332, provides that a local government may exercise control regarding the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities, provided the local government does not unreasonably discriminate among providers of functionally equivalent services; and does not prohibit the provision of personal wireless services;

WHEREAS, United States Code, Title 47, Section 332, provides that a local government shall act on any request for authorization to place, construct, or modify personal wireless service facilities within a reasonable period of time after the request is duly filed with such government or instrumentality, taking into account the nature and scope of such request; and any decision by a local government to deny a request to place, construct, or modify personal wireless service facilities shall be in writing and supported by substantial evidence contained in a written record;

WHEREAS, United States Code, Title 47, Section 1455, provides that a local government may deny a facility request for a modification of an existing wireless tower or base station if it substantially changes the physical dimensions of such tower or base station, including requests for the collocation, removal, or replacement of transmission equipment;

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase holds and maintains the streets and highways within its municipal boundaries in trust for the benefit, use, and convenience of the general public;

WHEREAS, Section 501 of the Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase Charter authorizes the Section 5 Council to pass ordinances as it may deem necessary for the preservation of Section 5 property, rights, and privileges; for the preservation of peace and good order; for securing persons and property from violence, danger, or destruction; and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, welfare, and happiness of the residents of and visitors in Section 5;

WHEREAS, after proper notice to the public, the Section 5 Council introduced the following Ordinance in an open meeting conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019;

WHEREAS, upon consideration of the testimony and evidence presented at the public hearing, the Section 5 Council finds that the ordinance as hereinafter set forth is necessary for the good government of Section 5; for the protection and preservation of Section 5's property, rights and privileges; for the preservation of peace and good order; for securing persons and property from violence, danger and destruction; and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, and convenience of residents.

WHEREAS, after proper notice to the public, the Section 5 Council introduced the following Ordinance in an open meeting conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, by the Village Council, acting under and by virtue of the authority given it by the Maryland Code and the Village Charter, the Village Council does hereby adopt the foregoing Ordinance and amend the Village Code as follows:

\* \* \*

Sec. 9-150 Laying, String, or Suspending Wire **and Related Equipment**

**(a) Laying, String, or Suspending Wire.** Any person, firm or corporation desiring to string, lay, hang, suspend or in any manner place wires of any kind, **and related equipment,** on, over, or under ~~the~~ **a public right-of-way, including a** public highways or streets, within ~~the jurisdiction of these regulations~~ **Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase** shall submit a written application to the Section 5 manager. If such application is approved, a permit will be issued without charge and such permit shall contain a provision for saving Section 5 harmless from loss or damage.

**Cross Reference: Chapter 13 (small wireless telecommunications facilities)**

\* \* \*

**CHAPTER 13**

## SMALL WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

### Sec. 13-101. Definitions.

“Collocate” means to install or mount a Small Wireless Facility in the public right-of-way on an existing Support Structure, an existing Tower, or on an existing Pole to which a Small Wireless Facility is attached at the time of the application. “Collocation” has a corresponding meaning.

“Communications Facility” means, collectively, the equipment at a fixed location or locations within the public right-of-way that enables Communications Services, including: (i) radio transceivers, antennas, coaxial, fiber-optic or other cabling, power supply (including backup battery), and comparable equipment, regardless of technological configuration; and (ii) all other equipment associated with any of the foregoing. The term does not include the Pole, Tower, or Support Structure to which the equipment is attached.

“Pole” means a legally constructed pole, such as a utility, lighting, traffic, or similar pole made of wood, concrete, metal or other material, located or to be located within a public right-of-way. The term does not include a Tower or Support Structure.

“Small Wireless Facility” means a Wireless Facility that meets all of the following conditions:

- (1) The structure on which antenna facilities are mounted (i) is fifty (50) feet or less in height, including existing antennas, or (ii) is no more than ten (10) percent taller than other adjacent structures, or (iii) is not extended to a height of more than fifty (50) feet or by more than ten (10) percent above its preexisting height, whichever is greater; and
- (2) Each antenna associated with the deployment, excluding the associated equipment, is no more than three (3) cubic feet in volume; and
- (3) All other wireless equipment associated with the structure, including the wireless equipment associated with the antenna and any pre-existing associated equipment on the structure, is no more than twenty-eight (28) cubic feet in volume; and
- (4) The facility does not require antenna structure registration under Federal law; and
- (5) The facility does not result in human exposure to radiofrequency radiation in excess of applicable safety standards under Federal law.

“Support Structure” means a structure in a public right-of-way other than a Pole or a Tower to which a Wireless Facility is attached at the time of the Application.

“Tower” means any structure in a public right-of-way, within or outside the boundaries of Section 5, built for the sole or primary purpose of supporting a Wireless Facility. A Tower does not include a Pole or a Support Structure.

“Wireless Facility” means the equipment at a fixed location or locations in the public right-of-way that enables wireless telecommunications services. A Small Wireless Facility is a

type of a Wireless Facility. The term does not include the Pole, Tower, or Support Structure on, under, or within which the equipment is located or collocated, or the coaxial, fiber-optic, or other cabling between Communications Facilities or Poles, or that is otherwise not immediately adjacent to or directly associated with a particular antenna.

“Wireless Services” means any wireless services using licensed or unlicensed spectrum, whether at a fixed location or mobile, provided to the public.

#### Sec. 13-102. Permit and Access Agreement Required.

- (a) No person shall construct, install, maintain, or perform any work in the public right-of-way related to a Communications Facility or any Tower, without first receiving a Permit and paying any applicable fee, as required under this Title. No permit shall be issued until the applicant has entered into a Right-of-Way Access Agreement in a form approved by Section 5, according to this Title. A permit shall not be required for ordinary maintenance and repair, as determined by Section 5.
- (b) The Right-of-Way Access Agreement shall set forth, at a minimum, the following: (a) the maximum term of the agreement and the bases for termination; (b) the scope of the authority; (c) the operator’s maintenance obligations; (d) the operator’s indemnification and insurance requirements; (e) emergency contacts and required response to emergencies related to facilities; and (f) Section 5’s right to access and inspect the operator’s books and records.

#### Sec. 13-103. Permit Application Requirements.

- (a) An application for a permit under this Title must contain or be submitted with the following:
  - (i) The applicant’s name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address, including emergency contact information for the Applicant.
  - (ii) The names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all consultants, if any, acting on behalf of the Applicant with respect to the filing of the Application.
  - (iii) A description of the proposed work and the purposes and intent of the proposed facility sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of this Title.
  - (iv) If applicable, a copy of the authorization for use of the property from the Pole, Tower, or Support Structure owner on or in which the Communications Facility will be placed or attached.
  - (v) Detailed construction drawings regarding the proposed facility.
  - (vi) A structural report performed by a duly licensed engineer evidencing that the Pole, Tower or Support Structure can adequately support the Collocation (or that the Pole, Tower, or Support Structure will be modified to meet structural requirements) in accordance with applicable codes.

- (vii) A certification by a radiofrequency engineer that the Communications Facility will comply with the radiofrequency radiation emission standards adopted by the Federal Communications Commission.
  - (viii) The applicable application fee, bond, Right-of-Way Access Agreement, and right-of-way access fee, as may be adopted and amended by resolution of the Section 5 Council.
  - (ix) An affidavit attesting that notice of the application, including a description of the proposed work, has been sent by the applicant to all owners of property within three hundred (300) feet of the proposed Communications Facility.
- (b) Section 5 may require the posting of a bond to guarantee the prompt and proper restoration of the public right-of-way. The bond may be in such amount as the Section 5 Manager deems necessary, in the Manager's discretion.
  - (c) In exchange for the privilege of non-exclusive use of the public right-of-way, the applicant shall pay Section 5 such access fee as may be established and amended by Section 5 by resolution from time to time.
  - (d) Any permit issued under this Title shall be valid for a period of twelve (12) months after issuance, and may be extended by the Section 5 Manager for up to an additional twelve (12) months upon written request of the applicant, prior to permit expiration, if the failure to complete construction is as a result of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the applicant.
  - (e) No work may be performed except in strict accordance with applicable law and the Section 5 permit and all approved plans and specifications.
  - (f) No permit shall be issued except to a wireless service provider with immediate plans for use of the subject Communications Facility. A permit issued under this Title may not be assigned or transferred.

**Sec. 13-104. Standards for Deployment in the Public Right-of-Way.**

- (a) No Interference with Right-of-Way. No person shall locate or maintain a Communications Facility, Pole, Support Structure, or any Tower, so as to interfere with the use of the public right-of-way by Section 5, the general public, or other persons authorized to use or be present in or upon the public right-of-way, or otherwise hinder the ability of Section 5 to improve, modify, relocate, abandon or vacate a public right-of-way or any portion thereof. Unless otherwise approved by Section 5, any Communications Facility must be located no closer than: (i) two (2) feet from any curb, sidewalk, or other improvement within the right-of-way; and (ii) five (5) feet from any driveway apron, and be otherwise located to avoid interference with pedestrian and motorist sightlines and use.
- (b) Compliance with Design Standards; Unsightly or Out-of-Character Deployments. Unless otherwise approved by Section 5 in order to prevent an effective prohibition

of service, in violation of applicable law, no person shall locate or maintain a Communications Facility, Pole, or any Tower except in accordance with the following design standards:

1. All Communications Facilities shall be located and designed so as to minimize visual impact on surrounding properties and from public rights-of-way.
  2. All radio transceivers, antennas, power supply (including backup battery), and comparable equipment installed on a Tower, Pole, or other Support Structure shall be installed at a height of at least fifteen (15) feet above ground level.
  3. No Tower may be located closer than one thousand (1,000) feet of another Tower.
  4. No more than five (5) antennas may be located on any single Tower, Pole, or Support Structure.
  5. All coaxial, fiber-optic, or other cabling and wires shall be contained inside the Tower, Pole, or other Support Structure or shall be flush-mounted and covered with a metal, plastic or similar material matching the color of the Tower, Pole, or other Support Structure on which it is installed.
  6. All Communications Facilities shall comply with such additional design standards as may be set forth in administrative regulations issued by Section 5.
- (c) Protection of Trees. Unless otherwise approved by Section 5 in order to prevent an effective prohibition of service, in violation of applicable law, no person shall locate or maintain a Communications Facility, Pole, Support Structure, or any Tower, so as to interfere with the health of a tree.
- (d) Location Underground. [Reserved].
- (e) Modification of Wireless Facilities. Section 5 shall approve any request for a modification of an eligible existing Tower or base station that does not substantially change the physical dimensions of such Tower or base station, in accordance with Federal law.
- (f) Restoration of Public Right-of-Way. The applicant shall restore, repair, and/or replace any portion of the public right-of-way that is damaged or disturbed by the applicant's work, to the satisfaction of Section 5. Such restoration work shall be completed no later than thirty (30) days following completion of the project, or termination of the Right-of-Way Access Agreement, and shall be warranted by the applicant for a period of one (1) year to be free from defects in materials and workmanship.
- (g) Removal, Relocation, and Abandonment. Within thirty (30) days following written notice from Section 5, or such other time as Section 5 may require, Section 5 may

**terminate a Right-of-Way Access Agreement or require other action in connection therewith, and the owner shall, at its own cost and expense, protect, support, temporarily or permanently disconnect, remove, relocate, change or alter the position of any of its Communications Facilities, Poles, Support Structures or Towers within the public right-of-way, and restore the right-of-way as required by Section 5, whenever either: (i) the terms of the Right-of-Way Access Agreement have been violated; (ii) the Communications Facility has not been used for a period of ninety (90) days, or has otherwise been abandoned or not maintained, or (iii) Section 5 has determined in its sole discretion that such action is necessary for the construction, installation, repair, or maintenance of any public improvement or otherwise necessary for the public health, safety, or welfare. If the owner fails to take action as required by this section, Section 5 or its contractor may do so and the owner shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by Section 5 related to such work.**

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, by the Section 5 Council, acting under and by virtue of the authority granted to it by the Maryland Code, and the Charter of Section 5 of the Village of Chevy Chase, that:

- (1) If any part or provision of this Ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the part or provision held to be invalid shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any remaining part thereof; and
- (2) This Ordinance shall take effect immediately, and expire 60 days from the date of adoption.

ATTEST:

SECTION 5 OF THE VILLAGE  
OF CHEVY CHASE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Xeller, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Chernack, Chair

**Underline** indicates new material  
~~Strikethrough~~ indicates material deleted  
\* \* \* indicates material unchanged