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March 14, 2018

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Promoting Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to  
Infrastructure Development - WT Docket No. 17-79;  
Accelerating Broadband Deployment ("BDAC") -WC Docket No. 17-83

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Honorable Brenda Bethune, Mayor of the City of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina ("City") and City Attorney Tom Ellenburg met by phone on March 14 with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and Louis Peraertz, her Senior Legal Advisor for Wireless, International, and Public Safety. The purpose of the meeting was to review the City's efforts to accommodate the needs of wireless providers in the community's rights-of-way while preserving the community's character, which is its economic engine. Joining the Mayor by phone was Joseph Van Eaton, counsel to the City, and the undersigned, in a similar capacity, was present in the Commissioner's office.

The Mayor opened the meeting by sharing Myrtle Beach's desire to be a smart city, with the latest and best wireline and wireless connections for its residents and visitors alike. But in meeting residential and visitor communications needs, the city also sought to preserve the integrity of the community's look, which the City has invested over \$110 million to achieve. The Mayor then shared a copy of the City's Request for Proposals For "Safe Harbor Designs for Wireless Deployment in the Rights of Way," a copy of which is attached to this letter.

Mayor Bethune and City Attorney Ellenburg explained the process that the City has employed to develop the "Safe Harbor" model. Highlights include:

- The City involved the industry in a summit, and engaged in a dialogue that has been productive and is currently on track to jointly address small cell deployment as a planning issue affecting all aspects of modern living.
- Industry members, in collaboration with the City's consultants, have been helpful and actively engaged, and expressed that the non-adversarial approach the City has taken to the challenge of achieving small cell deployment has yielded productive insights.

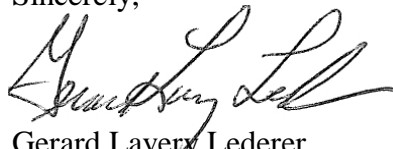
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Marlene H. Dortch  
March 14, 2018  
Page 2

- The City and industry members are approaching resolution to questions surrounding aesthetic goals, physical limitations which pose challenges that must be addressed (some Myrtle Beach rights-of-way are narrow – 5 feet wide or less — raising ADA issues, for example) while at the same time recognizing the community’s need for this technology.
- This involvement, engagement, and cooperative process is very likely to result in a solid solution that is cost-effective for industry and expedient for all parties, ensuring everyone gets what they most need.

Mayor Bethune concluded the presentation by thanking Commissioner Clyburn for her leadership and expressing hope that the Myrtle Beach model could be replicated elsewhere. Those efforts will only be possible, however, if the Federal Communications Commission and state legislatures preserve the opportunity for such joint efforts, rather than mandating access to local rights-of-way, a step which leaves no room for meaningful collaboration. As the Mayor explained, developing “safe harbors” means industry obtains quicker approvals, with fewer boards and committees to go through. The expedited treatment is a result of the upfront investment by both local governments and industry, working together to find mutually agreeable solutions, developing essentially preapproved standards to which the industry can build.

Sincerely,



Gerard Lavery Lederer  
of BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

cc: Louis Peraertz