

## **Crown Castle Distributed Antenna System -Statement of Direction-**

In July of 2010, Crown Castle (formally NewPath Networks) received SUP approval from the Town Council for a Distributed Antenna System in the Town's right-of-way (via Ordinance 625). The Distributed Antenna System (DAS) consists of a fiber-optic backbone that connects a series of antenna nodes that wireless carriers may use to improve system capacity, coverage, voice quality, high speed data, and internet access. Crown Castle submitted an Intermediate Special Use Permit Amendment application to replace the faux rock screens with equipment cages at three streetlight poles, which are located in the right-of-way at:

- 7300 N. Tatum Blvd (Site H219),
- 6401 E. McDonald Dr (Site H228), and
- 5395 N. Invergordon Rd (Site H232).

Section 1102.3 of the Town's Zoning Ordinance states the Town Council must issue a Statement of Direction for the Special Use Permit application within 45 days of the first staff presentation. In this case, the Statement of Direction must be issued on or before April 26, 2020.

The Statement of Direction is not a final decision of the Town Council and does not create any vested rights to the approval of a Special Use Permit. Any applicant for a Special Use Permit shall not rely upon the matters addressed in the Statement of Direction being the same as those that may be part of an approved Special Use Permit.

Therefore, the Town Council issues the following Statement of Direction for the Crown Castle Distributed Antenna System:

- The General Plan states that the Town shall require telecommunications facilities be located, installed and maintained to minimize visual impact and noise and preserve views. Cabling, conduit, and fiber optics shall be installed underground where possible, and the visual impact of cellular towers and antennas shall be a prime consideration of the Town's acceptance and approval (Community Character and Housing Goal 3.1.4.6).
- The Town Council considers the improvement of cellular service in Paradise Valley to be a critical policy goal and is grateful for this application to improve cellular infrastructure to better serve Paradise Valley. Thus, the Council disfavors the Commission recommending the imposition of aesthetic or other considerations that would serve as an obstacle to the applicant completing this project in a timely and efficient manner. Stated differently, while the aesthetics of the improvements are important to the Town Council, they should be evaluated in reference to the ability and reasonable willingness of the applicant to implement any recommended aesthetic considerations from the Commission.

- The Planning Commission shall focus their review on and provide options on how to mitigate the visible effects the amendment may have on the neighbors. In particular, the Planning Commission shall focus their review on:
  1. **Equipment Cages/Screens.** The equipment modification will improve service and will not change the use of the SUP. However, the new cages/screens will change the aesthetics. The Planning Commission shall evaluate the color and/or type of material (such as rusted metal) of the equipment screens/cages.
  2. **Orientation, Location, and Mitigation.** The Planning Commission shall: 1) evaluate the location and the orientation of the equipment screens/cages and 2) identify how the equipment cages can be visually mitigated. This includes identifying the location of underground utilities and potential conflicts, identifying the best location that will conceal the screen/cage, and identifying the appropriate orientation at each site (such as having the solid portions of the screen face the street and/or locating the equipment to a less visible area).

However, the costs associated with the different mitigation factors must be considered. The Commission shall provide effective and cost-efficient options that will visually mitigate the new equipment cages and minimize project costs. This includes the use of vegetation around the equipment cages/screens, evaluate if vegetation is needed at all 3 locations, and identify the type, quantity, and location of all applicable plants.

As per Section 1102.3.C.3.c of the Zoning Ordinance, at any time during the review process, the Planning Commission may request clarification and/or expansion of this Statement of Direction based on additional information that has evolved. However, the Planning Commission shall complete their review of this application no later than May 5, 2020.