Jessica DeWalt Sr. Manager – Network Regulatory/Real Estate 1701 Golf Road Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

August 22, 2023

### <u>Via E-mail</u>

Michael Lysicatos Assistant Director Village of Arlington Heights Planning and Community Development 33 S. Arlington Heights Road Arlington Heights, IL 60005

> Re: Verizon Wireless - Request for Approval to Proceed at Risk for Temporary Wireless Telecommunications Facility ("Temporary Facility") at 1500 Shure Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 ("Property")

Dear Mr. Lysicatos,

As a follow-up to our recent conversation and per your e-mail correspondence dated August 18, 2023, I request on behalf of Verizon Wireless to "Proceed at Risk" with deployment of the above-referenced Temporary Facility. We respectfully request that the Arlington Heights Village Board allow Verizon Wireless to proceed with its placement and operation from September 6, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

### Proof of Hardship

Verizon Wireless currently operates a wireless telecommunications facility collocated on a telecommunications tower at 1116 N Claremont Dr, Palatine, IL 60074. A third-party tower company, Crown Castle, leased space from the property owner and installed a communications tower that Verizon Wireless utilizes as a subtenant. Verizon Wireless has maintained a communications site (with use of tower space for antennas and adjacent ground space for base station equipment) since August, 2000. On August 3, 2022, Verizon Wireless was notified the underlying property owner elected to terminate its lease with Crown Castle. As a result of the termination of the Crown Castle lease, the Verizon Wireless subtenant interest also shall be effectively terminated.

Upon receiving the notice of termination, Verizon Wireless began a search for a replacement site as customer and public safety needs require a new permanent communications site location in the immediate area. Following an extensive search for not only a suitable location but a willing landowner, Verizon Wireless identified a candidate in Arlington Heights. Although Verizon Wireless was able to secure a location, it was not soon enough to allow Verizon Wireless to construct the new facility before September 6, 2023 due to the lengthy real estate process, performing necessary due diligence,

completing negotiations on a lease agreement and applying for the applicable regulatory and permit approvals. This includes applying to Village for necessary Special Use Permit waiver and building permits, which Verizon Wireless intends to apply for by October, 2023. Thus, in order to ensure that the Temporary Site is properly installed and integrated into the Verizon Wireless network so that there is not a degradation of service to the area, installation must begin on or about September 6, 2023.

Verizon Wireless forecasts that the new, permanent facility will be complete by March 2024. Until that time, Verizon Wireless needs to place the Temporary Facility at Property. In order to minimize the aesthetic impact to the Property and adjacent area, the Temporary Facility shall be placed in the parking lot area behind the multi-story building located at Property. We have included drawings depicting the location and specifications of the Temporary Facility.

### **Proof of Potential Public Safety Impacts**

Verizon Wireless has a variety of business and residential customers in Arlington Heights that include local public safety customers, the Arlington Heights Police Department and Arlington Heights Fire Department. If Verizon Wireless is unable to activate the temporary wireless telecommunications facility, Verizon Wireless customers will experience a reduction in service availability and quality in some areas.

Specifically, there will be decrease in coverage inside the residential and commercial areas along Dundee Road. Wireless network coverage inside buildings and residences will be much weaker and may even be unavailable in some residential areas. For instance, users in the center of a building home, garage or basement will not have the same reliability due to attenuation created by the structure. The lack of a strategically placed network site, even if temporary, would have such impact in the area. Attenuation is the reduction of radio signal strength after passing though a material, such as brick and other walls of a home. This can result in slow data speeds or dropped calls for these users.

We note there will also be negative impacts to data throughput speeds. Throughput is the actual amount of data passing through a device. In cases where there is poor coverage, the existing surrounding wireless facilities within range of a device will have difficulty communicating to the device to transmit data which results in customers experiencing slow response times on the devices when using the internet or sending messages or other data. Additionally, if Verizon Wireless is unable to activate the Temporary Wireless Telecommunications Facility, it may impact reliable coverage and capacity in some areas for E-911 calls. Emergency calls have priority routing on cellular communication networks. However, with loss of coverage and capacity, the congestion on the remaining wireless network during a natural and/or man-made disaster can affect emergency response capabilities by limiting call completion for public safety and emergency prepared personnel. Please see the enclosed coverage maps for your reference that further demonstrate the impact to Verizon Wireless's Network and impact to Verizon Wireless's customers in those areas. Needless to say, the inability of Verizon Wireless to operate a Temporary Facility at Property will severely impact customers within portions of the Village.

## <u>Village Approval of Permanent Facility and Subsequent Removal of Temporary Wireless</u> <u>Telecommunications Facility</u>

Verizon Wireless has negotiated a lease for a permanent facility at the subject Property. Currently, it is estimated the permanent facility will be ready for Verizon Wireless installation and use in March 2024. Verizon Wireless is finalizing remaining details on site plans and construction drawings and, once complete, will be applying for the appropriate building and zoning approvals for the permanent site. We expect to be ready to submit for the building and zoning approvals for the permanent facility by October, 2023. If the permanent facility is completed and activated ahead of the current estimated activation date, then the temporary facility will be removed within seven (7) days of activation. Otherwise, Verizon Wireless will remove the temporary Wireless Telecommunications Facility by March 31, 2024.

Verizon also acknowledges that if the permanent facility is not approved by the Village of Arlington Heights, that the temporary installation will be removed within seven (7) days of said determination. Verizon also acknowledges that if an application for the permanent facility is not made by October, 2023 that Village can require Verizon Wireless to remove the Temporary Facility within seven (7) days of said date.

Your consideration of our request for approval to proceed at risk for the placement and operation of the Temporary Facility is greatly appreciated. Verizon Wireless values its relationship with Village and its' residents and seeks to invest in its network to improve service for the community. This includes providing vital communications services to its customers, including law enforcement and emergency service providers. Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this request. You may contact me via email at jessica.dewalt@verizonwireless.com.

Sincerely,

Jessica DeWalt

## Existing Site Live – 100 ft CL



Reliable In-Residence Un-Reliable In-Residence Reliable In-Vehicle Un-Reliable In-Vehicle Reliable On-Street

 $\checkmark$ 

## **Existing Site Off**



Reliable In-Residence Un-Reliable In-Residence Reliable In-Vehicle Un-Reliable In-Vehicle Reliable On-Street

 $\checkmark$ 

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# With Proposed Temp Site Live – 50 ft CL



Reliable In-Residence Un-Reliable In-Residence Reliable In-Vehicle Un-Reliable In-Vehicle Reliable On-Street

location Live