



**Statement on Small Cell Wireless Technology in the Village of Western Springs**

Village of Western Springs, January 10, 2020 - 5G is a type of advanced wireless technology that began wide deployment in 2019. 5G networks are digital cellular networks, in which the service area covered by providers is divided into small geographical areas called cells. In order to deliver 5G technology many wireless carriers have to upgrade their infrastructure by adding small cell towers.

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The Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, which was signed into law on April 12, 2018 as Public Act 100-0585, provides the regulations and process for permitting and deploying small wireless facilities within rights-of-way and on private property throughout Illinois (excluding Chicago). Small wireless facilities are most often attached to utility or other poles. This Act imposes certain additional requirements on municipalities, including The Village of Western Springs. There is also a provision of the federal Communications Act of 1934 that limits local government authority over radio frequency emissions. As such, the Village does not have the authority to deny a completed permit application that fully meets legal requirements, should they receive one. This has been the impetus for efforts by the Village President and Trustees to seek greater local control over the implementation of 5G. In addition, our regional local council of government recently engaged lobbyists on behalf of its members, to closely monitor any telecommunications-related activity - both in Springfield and Washington, DC.

Small cell wireless facilities are not considered a revenue source for the Village; however, as with all issued permits there is a fee structure in place for applications. Per Ordinance 18-2929 (approved on July 23, 2018), permit requests that include installation of a small wireless facility on a new pole require a nonrefundable fee of \$1000. Those that propose to install a single facility on existing poles are \$650, and those that propose to install multiple facilities on an existing pole are \$350.

The Village has been contacted by several telecommunications providers with regard to 5G in recent months. While some providers may have shared preliminary site maps to illustrate tentatively proposed sites for small cell wireless facilities, to date only one formal request for a permit has been submitted. A formal permit application was submitted to the Village by Crown Castle. It was shared with the public, and has since been withdrawn. The Village will continue to convey information about the receipt and status of any formal permit applications. The Village remains committed to working toward greater control over all aspects of potential 5G implementation in our community, and to transparency during this process. Residents are reminded to visit the Village website's 5G page for more information, and to register to receive news flash alerts whenever a formal permit application has been submitted.