

Public Comment to Novato City Council at Their Meeting of June 28-2022

Hi, I'm Steve Glanz from Novato. I and my colleagues at Wire Novato had a lot to say here about AT&T's applications for four small wireless transmission facilities, which were eventually withdrawn. In the process, City Council was reminded that the urgency wireless ordinance it passed in 2019 was scheduled to be upgraded. Now is the time to formalize that process, and we have some ideas on how to expedite it, given the long postponement. We also have recommendations about content for the new ordinance and will work with the public, city attorneys, staff, and city council to make sure Novato has the best protective ordinance it can.

In the interim, should any telecoms file for new wireless permit applications, we would like to see more protections in place to prevent the same thing that recently happened with AT&T. In that spirit, councilmember Eklund proposed two motions on May 10 that were passed. The first is for city attorneys to deliberate on stricter application guidelines, informed in part by our comments and letters. The second is for the Planning Department to post all open, pending, eligible facilities, and new small cell wireless applications on the city's Planning Projects page, which they have done.

We will present an updated application checklist to the Planning Division, and jointly create an upgraded checklist with them. Now Planning has asked to be directed by City Council on this matter. Well, according to the second motion, stricter application guidelines **necessitate** this upgrade. In other words, both motions have already **pre-authorized** this direction from City Council.

With regard to the second motion, dealing with transparency, Planning has requested assistance from City Council to fully develop and enter data onto their page, and to complete their project to **map all** wireless facilities, with links to permitting data. They need to be reminded by Council that the transparency motion is sufficient direction for this purpose, and City Council needs to **authorize** the requested assistance.

I'm also asking that my public records request for Planning Division manuals relating to small cell wireless application procedures, which was denied by city attorneys, be re-evaluated, or at least respond to my inquiry as to why it was rejected.

The public stands behind us. The city has been graced with attendance, significant public interest, and media stories in favor of protecting public health on this issue. We're asking the city to follow through on its promises. Thank you.

Steve Glanz