

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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COMMISSION MEETING

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SPECIAL SESSION

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WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 29, 2020

+ + + + +

The meeting convened via video teleconference, at 10:30 a.m., Tom Gallas, Vice-Chairman, presiding.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS
PRESENT:

THOMAS GALLAS, Presidential Appointee
LINDA ARGO, Mayoral Appointee
EVAN CASH, Office of the Chairman of the Council
of the District of Columbia
WENDY GINSBERG, U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
PETER MAY, Department of the Interior
PAUL MCMAHON JR., Department of Defense
JENNIFER STEINGASSER, District of Columbia Office
of Planning
DANIEL SPINO, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
KRISTI TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS, General Services
Administration
BETH WHITE, Presidential Appointee

NCPC STAFF PRESENT:

MARCEL C. ACOSTA, Executive Director

JULIA KOSTER, Secretary to the Commission

ANNE SCHUYLER, General Counsel

**DIANE SULLIVAN, Director, Urban Design and Plan
Review**

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 10:31 a.m.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Good morning and
4 welcome to the National Capital Planning
5 Commission's April 29, 2020 online special
6 meeting.

7 1. COMMISSION ROLL CALL

8 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: First, Ms.
9 Koster, you can take the roll call.

10 MS. KOSTER: Thank you. Commissioner
11 Steingasser?

12 COMMISSIONER STEINGASSER: Here.

13 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner McMahon?

14 COMMISSIONER MCMAHON: I'm here.

15 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner May?

16 COMMISSIONER MAY: Here.

17 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Argo?

18 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Turn on your mic,
19 Linda.

20 MS. KOSTER: Linda?

21 COMMISSIONER ARGO: I'm here.

22 MS. KOSTER: Okay. Commissioner White?

1 COMMISSIONER WHITE: Here.

2 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Gallas?

3 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Here.

4 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Tunstall?

5 COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Here.

6 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Dixon, I

7 think is not here. Commissioner Cash?

8 COMMISSIONER CASH: Present.

9 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Spino?

10 COMMISSIONER SPINO: Here.

11 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Ginsberg?

12 COMMISSIONER GINSBERG: Here.

13 MS. KOSTER: Thank you. Also, Marcel

14 Acosta, Executive Director, Anne Schuyler,

15 General Counsel, and Diane Sullivan, Director of

16 Urban Design and Plan Review, are also in the

17 meeting.

18 MR. ACOSTA: Good morning.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you, Ms.

20 Koster. Noting the presence of a quorum, I'd

21 like to call this meeting to order.

22 Today's meeting is live-streamed and

1 will be available in a few days as a video on
2 NCPC's website.

3 If there's no objection, the special
4 meeting agenda is adopted as the order of
5 business.

6 We will now play a short video clip of
7 the Pledge of Allegiance.

8 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

9 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: I'd also like to
10 ask us all to have a moment of silence for the
11 country and all those affected by COVID-19.

12 (Moment of silence.)

13 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: In response to
14 the COVID-19 guidance on public gatherings, NCPC
15 will conduct its meetings virtually until
16 circumstances change.

17 I want to share how we will be
18 conducting Commission business, and later in the
19 meeting, staff will also discuss some of the
20 technical and procedural changes we will make to
21 running our meetings.

22 First of all, votes will be conducted

1 by roll call. Ms. Koster will take the roll call
2 in each of those instances.

3 When Commissioners wish to be
4 recognized, they should unmute, turn on their
5 webcams, and request to be recognized by stating
6 their names. When you're done talking, please
7 mute and turn off your webcam. Ms. Koster and I
8 will provide reminders throughout the meeting as
9 needed.

10 If you don't have any comments or
11 questions when asked, you don't have to turn on
12 your webcam, but you certainly are welcome to.
13 But we do want you to turn on your webcam for
14 voting purposes.

15 In general, please hold your questions
16 until the end of a presentation, unless there is
17 a particular issue or slide requiring
18 clarification.

19 During Commission deliberations, I
20 will use a round robin format to ask each
21 Commissioner if they have any questions or
22 comments.

1 I'll start with the Commissioner whose
2 agency is the applicant and then, use our normal
3 seating order, moving from my left to right. So,
4 Commissioner Steingasser, you will generally get
5 your thoughts in early. So, be ready.

6 If Commissioners have additional
7 comments or questions after we've gone through
8 the round robin order, please turn on your mic or
9 webcam and identify yourself and request to be
10 recognized.

11 I want to encourage everyone today to
12 ask a few questions and provide comments, so we
13 all get used to using the system. This special
14 meeting is really going to help us modify our
15 procedures and make adjustments as we need to
16 along the way.

17 When you wish to put forward a motion,
18 a second, or an amendment, please unmute, turn on
19 your webcam, identify yourself, and make the
20 motion. When you are done, then go ahead and
21 mute the phone and turn off your webcam.

22 **2. ELECT COMMISSIONER TO RUN THE OPEN SESSION**

1 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Before we proceed
2 with the rest of the agenda, in the absence of a
3 chair, the Commission must nominate and vote on
4 who should run the special session, which is the
5 second agenda item. Can we have a motion for who
6 should run this meeting?

7 COMMISSIONER MAY: So moved.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: And is that
9 Commissioner May?

10 COMMISSIONER MAY: Yes, that was,
11 sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Okay. And could
13 we have a second, please.

14 COMMISSIONER STEINGASSER: I second.
15 This is Jennifer Steingasser.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you. So,
17 Commissioner May has moved and Commissioner
18 Steingasser has seconded that I run our meeting
19 today. Ms. Koster, can you take the vote by roll
20 call, please? And please say yes, no, or
21 abstain, as she does that.

22 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Steingasser?

1 COMMISSIONER STEINGASSER: Yes.

2 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner McMahon?

3 Commissioner McMahon? He will return.

4 Commissioner May?

5 COMMISSIONER MAY: Yes.

6 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Argo?

7 COMMISSIONER ARGO: Yes.

8 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner White?

9 COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes.

10 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Gallas?

11 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Yes.

12 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Tunstall?

13 COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.

14 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Cash?

15 COMMISSIONER CASH: Yes.

16 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Spino?

17 COMMISSIONER SPINO: Yes.

18 MS. KOSTER: Commissioner Ginsberg?

19 COMMISSIONER GINSBERG: Yes.

20 MS. KOSTER: All right. Commissioner

21 McMahon, were you there?

22 COMMISSIONER MCMAHON: I'm back. Yes.

1 MS. KOSTER: Okay, great. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: So, the ayes have
3 it and thank you fellow Commissioners for
4 electing me to run this meeting. We're starting
5 a new adventure here together and I'm glad to
6 have all of you by my side to make sure we do
7 this well.

8 3. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

9 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: I'd like to now
10 turn to Agenda Item 3, which is the report of the
11 Vice-Chairman.

12 First, I want to say how good it is
13 just to see and hear everybody, the
14 Commissioners, the staff, everyone. I know that
15 each of you has been working hard within your
16 organizations to do what you have to do everyday
17 and in your communities as well.

18 But it's really great to know that all
19 of us are continuing to be strong and healthy
20 during these challenging times. So, we need you,
21 so please continue to take good care of
22 yourselves and stay healthy.

1 I also want to thank the NCPC staff
2 who have worked really hard to develop our
3 virtual procedures and to bring about this
4 meeting.

5 They are truly a dedicated team that
6 has demonstrated over these last few weeks how
7 well they can work together. And I would just
8 say, they're a real bunch of pros, they know what
9 they're doing and we're in good hands with the
10 team at NCPC.

11 As you know, the Commission did not
12 hold its April 2 regular meeting, but we did act
13 on four items by notational vote. That was
14 conducted by email.

15 Thank you all for electing me to
16 continue serving as Vice-Chairman in that
17 notational vote. I also look forward to
18 continuing to work with Commissioners Dixon and
19 May on the Executive Committee. In fact, we have
20 a meeting this afternoon to go over the May 7
21 agenda.

22 At the April 2 meeting, the Commission

1 also approved a bylaw that explicitly allowed
2 online meetings, with guidance on public comment.
3 So, we'll be using those procedures as we go
4 forward into the near future.

5 4. ONLINE MEETINGS OVERVIEW

6 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Let's move now to
7 Agenda Item 4, which is a presentation from Ms.
8 Koster and Ms. Kim. Hello?

9 MS. KOSTER: Okay, yes, thank you very
10 much. I got ahead of myself with my technology.
11 Thank you very much.

12 And I wanted to spend a few minutes
13 today going over our online meeting procedures
14 and format that we'll be using for our online
15 meetings.

16 The first thing I wanted to go over is
17 who's in the meeting. Obviously, Commissioners
18 and staff are here, but in upcoming meetings,
19 when you join the Teams environment, there may
20 also be applicant representatives or the
21 testifying public.

22 In addition, you'll need to know that

1 we're directing the public to watch the meeting
2 on live-stream and that, generally, they'll be
3 watching it.

4 And when the testifying public is done
5 with their testimony, we'll also direct them to
6 watch it on live-stream, so they will no longer
7 be in the Teams meeting environment.

8 Mr. Gallas has gone through this, and
9 you've all done a very lovely job in joining. Of
10 course, finding a quiet, well-lit space is
11 helpful. We discussed being mindful of when your
12 mic and your webcam are on.

13 And the idea that the applicants and
14 the public are in the room with us before and
15 during the meeting is important.

16 I'll also state that the chat feature
17 should only be used for technical and procedural
18 issues, not for general comments. Part of this
19 is that whatever you put in the chatroom is
20 available to the public, it's all recorded, and
21 of course, it could be FOIA-ble.

22 Commissioner Gallas has gone through

1 requests for recognition and speaking. I'll just
2 remind everyone that it's really important to
3 state your name each time you speak, just to help
4 not only our court reporter, but those in the
5 meeting, to know who's making the comment.

6 One thing for the upcoming meetings,
7 and potentially for the next May 7 meeting, if we
8 have significant public testimony, and for
9 example, on May 7, we have one item that already
10 has ten speakers signed up, you may receive more
11 than one invitation.

12 So, an invitation would come into two
13 Team sessions, one starting opening at 12:45 and
14 a second one for a later time. This is to help
15 us effectively manage the number of people in the
16 online meeting.

17 And when it is time to exit the first
18 session and enter the second session, I would
19 tell you that and we'd take a short break.
20 Everyone would exit this Team session and join
21 the second session.

22 When you join that second session, the

1 applicant, staff, and others that are there for
2 the remaining agenda items will already be
3 present.

4 We've already successfully gone
5 through voting, so I won't spend a lot of time on
6 that.

7 I will say, if you find that you're
8 interested in making an amendment and you know
9 this prior to the meeting, if you could let me
10 know, I would create a slide to display the
11 amendment, making it easier for all of us to see
12 what's being proposed.

13 Otherwise, if an amendment comes up on
14 the fly, NCPC staff will restate and, if
15 necessary, help craft amendments, as needed.

16 We've already gone through this. When
17 you enter the online meeting, you will be in a
18 lobby area. And then, we'll let you in and
19 you'll check-in with NCPC staff. If you have any
20 IT issues, we can help you out there.

21 And we've already gone through roll
22 call and voting. And during our regular

1 meetings, we will hold our reports in the consent
2 calendar, just like we do during a regular
3 meeting.

4 The biggest change that we'll have is
5 with public testimony. Public testimony is going
6 to be moved to the beginning of the agenda item.
7 We're doing this because it's a shorter wait time
8 for the public and it minimizes potential
9 technical issues and disruptions during the
10 meeting.

11 So, when you join the Teams
12 environment, the public will be on the meeting,
13 but they'll only be on the phone line, they will
14 not have a video screen, you won't see them.

15 We will use the same general
16 procedures. We'll ask each person that's
17 registered to speak, either for three or five
18 minutes, they'll be timed, and you may ask
19 questions after that.

20 To make sure you and the speakers are
21 prepared, we will send you all of the written
22 testimony and a list of speakers the day prior to

1 the meeting.

2 If there are any technical
3 difficulties with the speakers, you not only will
4 have that written testimony, but I will read the
5 testimony into the record at the meeting.

6 Once everyone that's signed up to
7 testify has done so, they will be asked to leave
8 the phone line and watch the meeting via live-
9 stream.

10 So, for you as Commissioners, what's
11 important I think to keep in mind is that if you
12 have questions, it's important to ask them during
13 that testimony window, because once testimony is
14 done, those parties will leave the line.

15 And also, keep in mind that you'll
16 still have coming up the staff presentation and
17 the applicant, who will be available to answer
18 questions.

19 So, when you are thinking about the
20 questions you want to ask, keep in mind whether
21 or not they would be more appropriately answered
22 by the staff or the applicant.

1 So, following public testimony, we
2 will have staff and applicant presentations.

3 The one thing that I'll note is that
4 as we load up the presentations, sometimes based
5 on not only the presenter's bandwidth, but how
6 you are receiving the information, there may be a
7 little bit of delay.

8 So, if you don't see the presentation
9 up on your screen, make sure you say something
10 and we'll wait a few minutes to make sure
11 everybody's got the presentation up and on the
12 screen.

13 Generally, if you can, hold your
14 questions until the end of the presentation.
15 Although, if it's timely, if the right slide is
16 up there, please feel free to ask those
17 questions.

18 I've noted that we will send you some
19 extra info on the Wednesday before the meeting.
20 That will include an annotated agenda with the
21 speaker list and reminders of these procedural
22 changes.

1 So, for example, we'll remind you that
2 the public testimony is happening at the
3 beginning of certain agenda items. We'll provide
4 the public testimony in writing and any exhibits.

5 We also will upload the actual staff
6 PowerPoints to your Commission portal, where you
7 get your meeting materials. So, if for any
8 reason at all you have trouble with the video
9 part of these meetings, you can still join on the
10 phone line and flip through the PowerPoints as
11 staff goes through.

12 One thing I'll say, and you might be
13 trying this out right now, is this is a great
14 opportunity to figure out how you're going to
15 manage your meeting materials and the virtual
16 meeting.

17 So, if you have a chance to either
18 have two screens or two devices, that can be a
19 good way to see those, or there's always the
20 tried and true method of printing out the
21 reports.

22 So, just a few last things. If you do

1 need to leave the meeting, please announce this
2 so I can capture that. If another alternate is
3 taking your place, they should announce
4 themselves.

5 If at any point in time you have any
6 technology trouble, our IT folks are standing by
7 waiting to help you.

8 And as we move through, we may have a
9 couple of these online meetings, it's hard to
10 predict, please let us know, me or Commissioner
11 Gallas, let us know how this is working for you,
12 if you have any suggestions to improve the
13 format.

14 And we also anticipate that all of the
15 platforms, including Teams, are bringing new
16 features online. So, we'll probably have some
17 new things to share with you as we continue with
18 these meetings.

19 Now, I'm going to turn it over to
20 Grace Kim, with our IT team, who will talk you
21 through a few technical issues.

22 MS. KIM: Thank you, Julia. I'm just

1 going to -- okay. Good morning, everyone. My
2 name is Grace Kim and I am a member of the NCPD
3 IT team. I'm here today to present a few key
4 reminders to minimize potential technical issues
5 during the virtual meetings.

6 So, first, we'd like to recommend that
7 you use your microphone and speakers from your
8 computer.

9 However, if you experience a poor
10 audio connection, you can connect from the
11 conference phone line. That phone line
12 information is provided in the meeting invite.
13 And please make sure you turn off your computer
14 microphone and speakers if you choose to use your
15 phone.

16 In the Teams environment, the host
17 does not have the ability to unmute participants,
18 so please remember to unmute yourself and turn
19 your camera on before speaking.

20 The chat feature in Teams should only
21 be used to report technical and procedural
22 issues.

1 And finally, please do not admit other
2 callers into the meeting. You may see a
3 notification in Teams that other participants are
4 waiting in the lobby to be admitted. Please
5 ignore these notices and do not admit other
6 callers into the meeting.

7 The meeting control bar appears in the
8 bottom center of your meeting screen. You can
9 hover your cursor in the bottom center of your
10 screen to make the control bar appear.

11 The figure here shows you the control
12 bar. The video camera will turn your webcam on
13 and off. The microphone will allow you to mute
14 and unmute yourself. The share desktop feature
15 will only be used by the presenter, so I'll skip
16 that one.

17 The more actions button, which is the
18 one with the three dots, will open another
19 window. And that window will include some
20 options, such as the full screen and the blur
21 your background.

22 Full screen will be helpful to see the

1 presentations in the larger window. The blur
2 your background feature does not work for iPad
3 users or anyone who may connect from the web.

4 And the rest are the show chat, show
5 attendees, and then, the big red button here is
6 how you would hang up or end a session.

7 Joining multiple sessions. Julia
8 mentioned that the May Commission meeting may be
9 split into two sessions. What that means is you
10 will receive two meeting invites, as shown in
11 this figure here.

12 They will appear sequentially. So, if
13 we have two sessions for the May Commission
14 meeting, you'll see Session 1 appear first and
15 then, right after that, you'll see Session 2.

16 To join the meetings, please click on
17 the Join Your Microsoft Teams Meeting link that
18 appears in your email client.

19 So, if you're using Outlook or Gmail,
20 please make sure you go to your email client to
21 click on those links and not from the calendar in
22 your Teams app. We've found that there are some

1 technical difficulties if you do navigate to your
2 Teams app calendar.

3 Timing the next session. Staff are
4 likely to start the Teams meeting for the next
5 session before the current session ends. So,
6 please make sure you wait until the Secretary
7 instructs you to join the next session and don't
8 forget to hang up the first session before you
9 join the next one.

10 Thank you. This concludes my
11 presentation. The NCPC IT team is available to
12 provide support prior to and during the meetings.
13 Our contact information is provided here. And
14 I'm happy to take any questions at this time.

15 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: I'd just like to
16 thank Ms. Koster and Ms. Kim for a very thorough
17 outline of our meeting procedures. They've
18 really thought this through.

19 And what we'd like to do now is ask
20 Commissioners if there are any questions or
21 comments, starting with Commissioners on my left.
22 So, I'm going to start with Commissioner

1 Steingasser. Do you have any questions or
2 comments?

3 COMMISSIONER STEINGASSER: No, I don't.
4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you. How
6 about Commissioner McMahon?

7 COMMISSIONER MCMAHON: No, no
8 questions. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you.
10 Commissioner May?

11 COMMISSIONER MAY: Perhaps this was
12 already stated, but the presentation that we just
13 saw, is that available to us somewhere?

14 MS. KOSTER: Yes. We didn't send out
15 that presentation, but I'm happy to send the
16 slides out to the Commission.

17 COMMISSIONER MAY: Thanks.

18 MS. KOSTER: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Great. Okay.
20 Commissioner Argo?

21 COMMISSIONER ARGO: No questions.

22 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Commissioner

1 White?

2 COMMISSIONER WHITE: No questions, but
3 my compliments. Very well done, very clear.

4 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: I agree. Thank
5 you. Commissioner Tunstall-Williams.

6 COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: No
7 questions. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: I don't know if
9 Commissioner Dixon has joined. Doesn't sound
10 like it. Commissioner Cash?

11 COMMISSIONER CASH: No questions.
12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you.
14 Commissioner Spino?

15 COMMISSIONER SPINO: No questions.
16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: And Commissioner
18 Ginsberg?

19 COMMISSIONER GINSBERG: I don't have
20 any questions. I just apologize in advance that
21 I'm sharing 900 square feet with a kid and a
22 husband, so the quiet part is the part that's

1 going to be hardest for me. Thanks.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: You're doing
3 great. I think a lot of us are juggling a lot of
4 adjustments in the way we're having to coexist
5 these days. So, we applaud you for juggling in
6 such an effective way.

7 5. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

8 ANTENNA GUIDELINES UPDATE

9 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: So, with that,
10 I'd like to turn to Agenda Item 5, which is going
11 to be an information presentation by Mr. Carlton
12 Hart on NCPC's antenna guidelines initiative.
13 Mr. Hart?

14 MR. HART: Good morning. Good morning,
15 all. So, over the past 18 months, NCPC staff has
16 been reviewing the antenna guidelines and
17 identifying issues in order to update the
18 document.

19 Antennas have very different purposes.
20 Most of us rely on them as an integral part of
21 our nation's telecommunications network,
22 especially as we've had recently to physically

1 distance ourselves and rely on these networks
2 while we work from our homes.

3 If you've had intermittent service or
4 have had calls dropped recently, you know how
5 vitally important it is to have a robust network
6 of antennas.

7 The first guidelines that the
8 Commission adopted were in 1988. In the mid to
9 late 1990s, a Commission task force looked at the
10 radio frequency safety effects on humans and
11 aesthetic concerns to update these 1988
12 guidelines.

13 These changes were finally adopted by
14 the Commission in 2001. And these are the most
15 recent guidelines that we have, that we are
16 looking to update.

17 The purpose of the guidelines is to
18 protect the skyline, historic resources, and
19 scenic character of the nation's capital and
20 provide a safe environment for employees,
21 visitors, and residents.

22 Over time, there have been significant

1 advances in technology, in addition to an
2 increased demand for multiple types of
3 telecommunication infrastructure. This has led
4 us to consider changes to these guidelines.

5 So, these revisions under
6 consideration will address some longstanding
7 issues that both applicants and staff have
8 identified over the years. These issues are
9 outlined here.

10 The first is that guidelines don't
11 adequately discuss all of the existing types of
12 antennas. And what we really mean by this is
13 that small cells and temporary antennas are not
14 included in the existing guidelines.

15 The second issue is that we have
16 design criteria for evaluating antenna
17 installations. They need to change to adequately
18 address things like location, color, cumulative
19 effects, or priority areas.

20 And finally, the last change under
21 discussion is the review process, as it does not
22 currently include temporary or small cell

1 antennas.

2 And these have varying installation
3 time frames.

4 So, over the past two decades, staff
5 has reviewed and consulted on many different
6 antennas, and utilizing this experience,
7 identified three types of antennas, permanent
8 antennas, temporary ones, and small cells.

9 The existing guidelines only really
10 address one type, which are the permanent
11 antennas. So, they'll need to be expanded to
12 include all of the types.

13 So, the first type, permanent
14 antennas, are either attached to a free-standing
15 tower or mast or they're attached to a sled or
16 penthouse on the roof of a federal building.
17 These are the most common submissions to the
18 Commission and will typically be approved for
19 either five or ten years.

20 While many of the antennas the
21 Commission approves are to enhance the public
22 telecommunications network, others are used for

1 secure communications by one or more federal
2 agencies.

3 So, next, we get to temporary
4 antennas. These are, as the name suggests,
5 different from the permanent antennas in one main
6 way, they are only intended to enhance the local
7 cell network when large crowds are anticipated
8 for a specific event. These events could be the
9 inauguration, First Amendment demonstrations,
10 festivals, and cultural events, to name a few.

11 You may be aware of them because
12 you've seen the one here, that's shown on the
13 screen, or something like it, at an event that
14 you have attended. This image on the screen is
15 actually called a cell-on-wheels, also referred
16 to as a COW.

17 Because of the short duration that
18 they will be installed, typically only a few days
19 to a week or two, staff is not able to review
20 them, since this is much shorter than the
21 Commission review cycle.

22 And we're looking at having the

1 definition for temporary antennas be anything
2 installed for less than 30 days.

3 So, finally, we get to small cells.
4 And you're probably fairly familiar with these
5 because of the review the Commission went through
6 over the last two years, and because they are
7 more frequently in the news as this network is
8 being deployed across the nation by multiple
9 service providers.

10 And they are defined as being small,
11 low-power cell antennas that can be attached to
12 existing streetlight poles or placed on new
13 poles. These are the main infrastructure when
14 the cell providers are deploying the fifth
15 generation or 5G networks.

16 While staff is looking to recommend
17 that the Commission include them in the
18 guidelines, staff notes that small cells that
19 will be deployed on D.C. rights-of-ways will be
20 regulated by the District government and not by
21 NCPC. The only small cells that NCPC will review
22 will be those on federal property.

1 So, the second issue that we've
2 identified pertains to the design criteria.
3 Staff use these design criteria to base our
4 recommendations to the Commission.

5 These design criteria do not
6 appropriately address a number of issues, and you
7 see them here. And I think the main issue that
8 we're looking to address is really how to deal
9 with the visibility of antennas on rooftops.

10 This is a key issue, since NCPC is an
11 approval authority for projects within D.C., and
12 we seek to protect views of the national capital,
13 as well as protecting historic resources.

14 There are some other minor changes
15 with regard to small cells and lighting and
16 safety, and I'll discuss those in upcoming
17 slides.

18 And so, we're also considering several
19 small changes, such as removing one criterion
20 which is related to mast and tower materials, as
21 it is no longer relevant.

22 And then, finally, renaming the

1 categories, because the existing ones are fairly
2 vague and they need to be clarified.

3 So, reviewing the list of antenna
4 projects submitted to the Commission over the
5 last two years, it's clear that the rooftop
6 antennas are the primary type of project that's
7 submitted for review.

8 Sometimes, the antenna projects blend
9 in well and they're really not that noticeable.
10 There are some antennas that are shown here on
11 this slide and they are actually pretty good.
12 You can see how on this building, they're painted
13 a color that will match with the building itself
14 and placed in a location to blend in with the
15 existing architecture.

16 There are also screens that have been
17 used to camouflage antennas and you'll see the
18 image here on the right and then, a diagram
19 showing this on the left, just to show that the
20 antennas are kind of behind a screen on these two
21 towers.

22 But, unfortunately, while the screens

1 may work in some instances, they don't always
2 work in all instances. And so, they're not
3 always effective.

4 And then, there are antennas that may
5 be visible and staff uses the design criteria to
6 help minimize these impacts of the views on the
7 design, looking to push them back or sometimes
8 use existing infrastructure or existing
9 mechanical equipment on the top to help to shield
10 them.

11 Staff has identified a few challenges
12 regarding rooftop antennas, and I'll go into
13 those in an upcoming slide.

14 So, while the new criteria can be
15 adjusted to address most of the visibility
16 concerns, these two challenges which are shown
17 here will require some additional thought and
18 discussion. And I'll kind of lay them out here.

19 The first challenge is identifying if
20 there are priority viewsheds to be protected.
21 And this is kind of a larger scale concern,
22 looking at kind of vistas down main streets or

1 from prominent areas, such as the National Mall.

2 The second challenge is understanding
3 the cumulative visual impacts of multiple service
4 providers with several antennas on a single
5 building.

6 This is a concern on the individual
7 building level, so as you're looking at the
8 building, how is the addition of antennas
9 impacting that view?

10 So, where are these priority areas,
11 these priority views that we can look to be
12 protected?

13 One possibility that we could use is
14 to use the same areas that were identified in the
15 Urban Design Streetscape and Lighting Framework
16 Plan. These areas are shown on the slide here
17 and were first presented to the Commission a few
18 months ago.

19 While there were different concerns
20 being raised here, there is some overlap and it
21 may be better to use something like this to guide
22 us.

1 There are a number of questions that
2 come up as well, such as, should there be
3 additional criteria added to protect more
4 prominent areas and these priority areas that are
5 shown here? And are there other ways to ensure
6 these areas are protected? And I'd like to hear
7 your thoughts on that.

8 Then, we get to the cumulative
9 impacts. This is the kind of individual building
10 level impacts. And there are a couple of
11 questions that come to mind here.

12 The first is that, is there a tipping
13 point when there are really too many rooftop
14 antennas and how is this determined? Is there a
15 rooftop-wide strategy for addressing this
16 concern?

17 And maybe it is adding in screens for
18 either a penthouse area, so that the antennas can
19 be behind that, or some other alternative.

20 And also, what is, the last question
21 here, what is the impact on cell service if there
22 are limits to cellular antennas on certain

1 buildings?

2 The building plan that's shown here
3 has three service providers identified on it,
4 they're different colors. But in the future,
5 there may be additional providers requesting to
6 place their antennas on this roof. And how is
7 that handled?

8 And if we look to limit the number of
9 providers on a roof, will cell phone service be
10 impacted by that? And we would appreciate your
11 thoughts on these questions.

12 As I noted earlier, there were a few
13 small changes to the things like small cells,
14 lighting and screening, with regard to the design
15 criteria.

16 For small cells, they were not
17 included in the criteria because, of course, they
18 are a newer technology, they weren't around in
19 2001. And we're thinking that this could be
20 added to the ground level antenna criteria.

21 With regard to lighting, illumination
22 is allowed on antennas, as required by federal

1 regulations.

2 What we're looking to only add is that
3 sometimes it may be necessary to have some
4 limited lighting for technicians to be able to
5 access utility cabinets or antennas when the
6 lighting conditions are poor, let's say it's
7 early in the day or late at night.

8 With regard to screening and safety
9 fencing, this is just an issue of clarity. The
10 existing criteria is somewhat confusing because
11 it describes screening as necessary for both
12 providing safety to the public, by prohibiting
13 access, and as a method to reduce visibility of
14 the antennas on top of a building.

15 Staff believes that it's important to
16 clarify that safety fencing would be used to help
17 prohibit public access to antennas, while
18 screening would be used to reduce the visibility
19 of antennas. And that's just kind of parsing
20 those two issues out.

21 So, we then get to the third and final
22 issue, which pertains to the review process.

1 There are four main points here.

2 Small cells, as I noted earlier,
3 they're actually not included in the process or
4 in the document from 2001 and they really needed
5 to be added, noting again that the cell antennas,
6 small cell antennas and related infrastructure on
7 District rights-of-way will be regulated by the
8 District government, but small cells that are on
9 federal installations would be reviewed by the
10 Commission, along with -- using our existing
11 antenna procedures.

12 With regard to temporary antennas,
13 staff would recommend that temporary antennas not
14 require NCPD review. And these would be antennas
15 that are in place less than 30 days.

16 However, we would think that it would
17 be helpful to have a notification letter
18 submitted to the Commission, to staff, describing
19 the project, its location, duration that it will
20 be up, and when it would be installed and
21 removed, just so we have a way to track it.

22 And finally, the changes in the review

1 process for delegations and review exceptions.
2 This is more of a technical thing for staff.
3 Currently, we can only delegate or the Commission
4 can only delegate projects that are receive-only
5 antennas, and the same with review exceptions.

6 We're looking to have actually both
7 send and receive antennas. So it's, like I said,
8 a technical change, but it's one that we think it
9 would be helpful to have at this juncture.

10 So, in summary, while there are a few
11 changes under consideration, identifying
12 different antenna types, making criteria for
13 evaluating installations clearer, and also,
14 making some changes to the current review
15 process.

16 There are a few challenges that staff
17 has identified regarding priority viewsheds and
18 cumulative impacts of antennas on rooftops. We
19 are asking a few questions, as you noted in the
20 previous slide. And we'd like to see if we can
21 get some input from the Commission on how we can
22 address these challenges.

1 With regard to the priority viewsheds,
2 it's really where are these priority areas that
3 we'd like to protect? And maybe there needs to
4 be additional criteria to protect these more
5 prominent areas.

6 And with regard to cumulative impacts,
7 is there a tipping point where there are too many
8 antennas on a roof? And maybe there could be
9 impacts on cell service if antennas are limited
10 on a particular building.

11 And with that, we get to the timeline.
12 We're doing the information presentation, of
13 course, in April, and look to bring the draft
14 antenna guidelines to the Commission for release
15 for public comment in June/July time frame of
16 this year. And then, have the antenna guidelines
17 for final adoption in September or October of
18 this year.

19 And with that, I will end my
20 presentation and am happy to answer any
21 questions. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you for

1 your informative presentation, Mr. Hart. I'd
2 like to, at this time, do a round robin to ask
3 the Commissioners if they have any questions.
4 So, let's start with Commissioner Steingasser,
5 please.

6 COMMISSIONER STEINGASSER: Yes. Thank
7 you, Mr. Hart, that was really a very informative
8 presentation.

9 I want to voice my support for your
10 idea of requesting a letter of notification for
11 temporary antennas, because it's been our
12 experience that sometimes they start out as
13 temporary and then they get forgotten. So,
14 having an idea of who controls them and at least
15 how to reach out to the operator is important.

16 And regarding the viewsheds, could we
17 go back to the very last slide, where there was a
18 bit of an elevational photograph of the
19 viewsheds? Yes, right there.

20 MR. HART: Is this the one you're
21 looking at?

22 COMMISSIONER STEINGASSER: That one,

1 that's a good example.

2 MR. HART: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER STEINGASSER: I think when
4 we start looking at viewsheds, thinking about
5 where the view is being taken, at what elevation,
6 like from the street level, having them set back
7 is really important.

8 And whether it's a one-to-one setback
9 or a two-to-one setback, so that there's a clear
10 shot, or whether, in some cases like this, seems
11 to be taken from the Capitol Building itself
12 looking --

13 MR. HART: It is.

14 COMMISSIONER STEINGASSER: -- out. And
15 I think that's going to be important as we look
16 at those, defining the perspective and elevation
17 of the viewsheds. That's all the comments I have
18 right now.

19 MR. HART: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you. And
21 how about Commissioner McMahon, any comments or
22 questions?

1 COMMISSIONER MCMAHON: I'm not going to
2 turn the camera on, because the last time I did,
3 I got kicked out of the meeting, so I'll have to
4 work on that in the future.

5 But, no, Carlton, good presentation.
6 You've raised some key issues. I suspect there
7 will be a challenge trying to regulate cell
8 phones on trailers for special events, although I
9 think AT&T and all that, we use them here at the
10 Pentagon from time to time. I'll see how that
11 plays out.

12 Certainly, the other issues you raised
13 need addressing and I can support those. I also
14 appreciate that the sample you used of a well-
15 screened cell phone antenna installation was one
16 I'm quite familiar with. Other than that, I look
17 forward to seeing the staff flesh this out for
18 us.

19 MR. HART: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you,
21 Commissioner McMahon. Commissioner May?

22 COMMISSIONER MAY: Yes, I have a couple

1 of questions or comments. First is, with regard
2 to the temporary antennas, you don't state it
3 specifically, but I assume that when you're
4 talking about temporaries, you're talking about
5 ones on parkland or other public space, because
6 you only mentioned, the only ground installations
7 you mention are in public rights-of-way.

8 MR. HART: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER MAY: Yes.

10 MR. HART: Yes, they would be. But
11 sometimes we actually get some temporary antennas
12 that are proposed on buildings --

13 COMMISSIONER MAY: Yes, no, and --

14 MR. HART: -- for events.

15 COMMISSIONER MAY: And that's fine, and
16 that's included. But --

17 MR. HART: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER MAY: -- I think the very
19 frequent use that we see is in parkland, and I
20 assume that those will be included, even though
21 that was not explicit in your comment.

22 The -- I do have a concern about the

1 temporary notifications --

2 MR. HART: Sure.

3 COMMISSIONER MAY: -- because I do not
4 believe that it will be an easy task.

5 It seems like it's an easy task, send
6 us a letter, let us know when it's happening, but
7 with the number of large events that we have on
8 the Mall and sometimes other places, making sure
9 that, in addition to the million other details
10 that you have to deal with in planning a special
11 event, that we've got to send a letter to NCPC,
12 or the service provider does, I mean, there are
13 many different people involved in these things,
14 it's not us a lot of the time instigating the
15 event.

16 So, I would think that it's okay to do
17 a notification, but I think that if it's a
18 notification associated with a one or two or
19 three-day event, that maybe you don't need to do
20 it.

21 Because it's really, it's just one
22 more thing that I don't think we need to do. We

1 roll them in, we hook them up, and they roll
2 away. It's not like some of the other ones,
3 where it goes in for 20 days or something like
4 that.

5 So, I think that should be an
6 exception and I will continue to advocate for
7 that.

8 MR. HART: I appreciate the comment on
9 it. And it is -- I think that's also why we
10 wanted to have this discussion, because while we
11 understand that there may be some groupings that
12 we can use, like if you're putting one on a
13 building, that kind of makes sense to me.

14 It is harder for us to know the
15 difficulties that you all may have as you're
16 actually trying to install these and the
17 permitting and other processes that you all will
18 have to go through for it.

19 So, it's helpful for us to understand
20 this and it is possible to -- we can think about,
21 maybe there is some sort of exception that we
22 look for.

1 It really was trying to find ways so
2 that we could be aware that these things were
3 going up and maybe there's a different forum to
4 do that in. It just seemed like the notification
5 letter was a way in which to do that. But --

6 COMMISSIONER MAY: Okay.

7 MR. HART: -- we can continue to
8 discuss that.

9 COMMISSIONER MAY: Okay. Yes, thanks.
10 I'm going to advocate against having to do that
11 for a lot of the large, very short-term events
12 that we have on the Mall and in similar places,
13 because it just seems like it's another detail
14 that we don't need, there's not really any
15 protection that's provided by doing that.

16 I could see it if it's going to be up
17 there for 20 days, you want to know --

18 MR. HART: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER MAY: -- what's going on,
20 but if it's up for one or two or three days, I
21 don't think it's necessary.

22 The second thing is that when it comes

1 to how we -- the guidelines and what we try to
2 put in place to make sure that antennas, rooftop
3 antennas in particular, are as invisible as
4 possible.

5 I think that it's important to be
6 thinking creatively about that. And this is
7 probably more applicable when it comes to new
8 construction. But it is possible to actually
9 integrate the antennas into the design of the
10 building.

11 And the only example I can think of
12 off the top of my head is a District building,
13 the Unified Communications Center, where they
14 integrated a number of antennas along the
15 perimeter of the building and it's actually
16 integrated into the design.

17 I don't know if that's -- whether it
18 still looks the way it was originally designed,
19 but the notion of actually trying to integrate
20 this technology into the design of the building
21 or design of the rooftop, I think actually could
22 be a fruitful path and better than just sort of

1 trying to put a blanket over it and hide it,
2 because --

3 MR. HART: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER MAY: -- sometimes, those
5 screening devices wind up being very obvious and
6 ugly themselves.

7 Then, the last thing I would mention
8 is that, when it comes to, I think there was a
9 statement in your, I don't know if it was in the
10 presentation, but I know it was in the writeup
11 that we received in advance, that there would be
12 a list of exceptions that would be amended to
13 include replacements or renewals when they're
14 replacements-in-kind or renewal of an existing
15 antenna.

16 And I would just want to say I do not
17 think that that should be an exception or an
18 automatic.

19 Now, maybe there are some
20 circumstances where that's fine, but if we're
21 going to institute new guidelines and we have
22 stuff that was put in place under the old

1 guidelines and it's ugly or highly visible, yet
2 somehow managed to pass muster, I think we should
3 revisit that, rather than simply grant it a
4 renewal by exception. So, I think we have to
5 look at that with a finer eye.

6 MR. HART: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER MAY: That's it for my
8 comments.

9 MR. HART: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER MAY: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: And, Commissioner
12 May, can I ask you a question about that last
13 point?

14 Particularly, where we were seeing the
15 sort of cumulative effects of some of these
16 things, or maybe we approved them individually,
17 but now we see them in total and we see that some
18 of the images that were being shown, is that
19 partly what's on your mind too with that comment?

20 COMMISSIONER MAY: I wasn't thinking
21 about that specifically, but that certainly makes
22 a lot of sense. The first antenna may not be so

1 bad, but by the tenth one, the whole rooftop is
2 being junked up.

3 I would also say, I mean, this is
4 unrelated, but I was reminded of Commissioner
5 Steingasser's comment having to do with where you
6 are taking the views from.

7 And I think that one of the things
8 that has changed in the city in the last few
9 years is the greater use of rooftops as private-
10 public space as it were, rooftop decks and
11 gardens and things like that.

12 And the amount of junk that's getting
13 piled on the roof is being reduced as building
14 owners are trying to make better use of their
15 buildings.

16 And so, I think that we should be
17 thinking expansively about what it looks like and
18 not just say, well, it's set back one-to-one,
19 it's okay. You can see them from other rooftops,
20 maybe we should be paying attention to the views
21 from rooftops as there are a lot of people on top
22 of them. Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Okay. Thank you

2 --

3 COMMISSIONER MAY: All right.

4 MR. HART: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: -- Commissioner
6 May. Next, Commissioner Argo, any comments or
7 questions?

8 COMMISSIONER ARGO: Hi, there. I just
9 had a couple of comments. Very thoughtful
10 comments, Commissioner May, thank you. Anything
11 -- most of the things that I was thinking of, you
12 mentioned.

13 When you're -- there's another word,
14 in fact the words you used, the adjectives you
15 used, you used ugly, highly visible, all of that,
16 one of the things that comes to mind is to think
17 about how they're, which may be the same thing in
18 some people's minds, how they're intrusive, or
19 just for the kinds of viewsheds that we might be
20 trying to protect in some way.

21 I completely support, and this comes
22 from some experience, though it is long dated at

1 this point, the concept of exploring how we can
2 do a better job of ensuring that some of these
3 concepts are integrated into building design.

4 And I'm not quite sure the best way to
5 do that, but I think there's probably a number of
6 ways, if there's a comprehensive approach to
7 that.

8 Thanks for the chance to comment and
9 thanks for the comprehensive presentation.

10 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you,
11 Commissioner Argo. It would seem that the
12 integration within the building is going to need
13 to offer some flexibility as the technologies
14 change, as we've seen with --

15 COMMISSIONER ARGO: Absolutely.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: -- antenna
17 technology over time. And so, having flexibility
18 built into those building facades or into the
19 rooftops may --

20 COMMISSIONER ARGO: Rooftops, yes.

21 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: -- be part of
22 that.

1 COMMISSIONER ARGO: Yes, I agree.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Yes, thank you.

3 Commissioner White from Chicago, any comments or
4 questions?

5 COMMISSIONER WHITE: Hello, there.

6 It's actually Houston now --

7 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Houston, that's
8 right.

9 COMMISSIONER WHITE: -- but Chicago's
10 always in my heart, Tom.

11 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Sorry, thank you,
12 you're right.

13 COMMISSIONER WHITE: No, that's okay.
14 I appreciate everyone's comments and I was
15 thinking about the temporary antenna situation as
16 well and agree with Commissioner May that having
17 them for special events may be a little much,
18 since special events are so heavily permitted
19 already, and they are truly temporary.

20 But I did think about how would we
21 monitor that situation and is that built-in? If
22 we get a letter, are we going to go out in 30

1 days and make sure that antenna is removed?
2 Because it seems to me that would be a big issue,
3 if people put that up and then, just leave it
4 there until they're told to move it. So, that
5 would be something to think about.

6 And I appreciated too the integration
7 into building design and the building that was
8 referenced, the District building, it would be
9 great to put in some examples of successful
10 integration of antennas. So, I thought that was
11 a really great idea and I'd love to see an image
12 of that building.

13 But otherwise, I concur with all the
14 comments and I think this is a real thoughtful
15 approach to trying to reduce visual clutter,
16 because that's what it is. So, thank you for the
17 good work.

18 MR. HART: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you,
20 Commissioner White. Commissioner Tunstall-
21 Williams?

22 COMMISSIONER TUNSTALL-WILLIAMS: Yes.

1 Thank you, Mr. Hart, for the presentation. It's
2 very timely.

3 As you may or may not be aware, GSA is
4 just sort of in the tail-end of completing a
5 cumulative review of our antenna program. We
6 currently lease space on the top of our buildings
7 and its revenue that comes in.

8 The biggest benefactors of that are
9 our historic buildings. The money goes into a
10 fund that we use to restore buildings that can't
11 compete, frankly, from a reinvestment perspective
12 with some of our more modern buildings.

13 So, it's a very valuable program to
14 us. However, we have had a number of challenges.
15 Many of them are the same ones that you all have
16 identified.

17 The most key among them is the
18 cumulative impacts. And one of the big
19 challenges there is how do we, when we're dealing
20 with applications from various carriers, how do
21 we assess the cumulative impacts and whose
22 responsibility is that?

1 We've tried to put it back to the
2 carriers and they say, well, wait a minute, we
3 can't know what Carrier X is doing. And so, then
4 it comes back to the agency. And we're trying --
5 we really are grappling with how to deal with
6 that, both from a NEPA perspective, a viewshed
7 perspective.

8 And so, we would really welcome
9 conversation with staff and other impacted
10 agencies about how they are managing that,
11 because it is a challenge.

12 And then, the last thing I'd like to
13 add is, the viewsheds will be interesting, as
14 well as the -- as you start to consider the
15 impact of changes on cell service.

16 Because what we've found, our most
17 popular antenna sites are the most prominent.
18 The Labor Building and HHS, right off the Mall,
19 are very, very, they're full, right, because
20 that's where people want to be, particularly if
21 there's large events.

22 So, I think there may -- you also want

1 to think through the repercussions. If you push
2 them off the roofs, do we end up with more ground
3 level or more temporary antennas?

4 So, it's just a bigger picture to
5 think through, I think. And we welcome the
6 opportunity to participate.

7 MR. HART: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you.
9 Commissioner Cash, any comments or questions?
10 Commissioner Cash, are you there?

11 COMMISSIONER CASH: Sorry, Chairman.
12 I have no questions at this time. Sorry.

13 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Okay. Thank you.
14 Commissioner Spino?

15 COMMISSIONER SPINO: No questions or
16 comments.

17 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you. And
18 Commissioner Ginsberg?

19 COMMISSIONER GINSBERG: Sorry. I have
20 no questions. Thank you for a great
21 presentation, I learned a lot.

22 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Thank you,

1 Commissioners. I just want to maybe follow up a
2 little bit with a couple of points.

3 I agree, it was a very thoughtful
4 presentation and it's asking a lot of important
5 questions that we grapple with when we're asked
6 to review and approve these applications.

7 And being able to think through
8 strategically in anticipation, I think it will
9 help building owners and people who are making
10 these decisions, to understand a more holistic
11 approach.

12 I think you suggested, Mr. Hart, in
13 your report, that there might be a need for a
14 master plan on the rooftop, much like you would
15 do a landscape plan on a ground plane or
16 something like that.

17 And where these used to be thought of
18 as only utilitarian spaces, we're hearing from
19 Commissioners about how rooftops are being more
20 valued as well, in terms of their uses and so
21 forth.

22 And then, the cumulative effect on how

1 we're seeing it.

2 The biggest thing that we are going to
3 be facing probably in the next several months
4 ahead as a Commission will be when we see the
5 small cell pole design coming back and how that's
6 going to be interacting with the ground plane
7 versus the rooftops.

8 And so, I know there's a committee
9 that had set out to do some design work, and I
10 don't know if there's any update on that that you
11 could share with us today about where that
12 process is?

13 MR. HART: Yes. The -- as you noted,
14 there has been a meeting, a group that's been
15 meeting. DDOT has been kind of spearheading
16 this. They have met with the small cell
17 providers, as well as us, CFA, Office of
18 Planning, and SHPO, over the summer, last summer
19 and last fall.

20 The designs have not been finalized
21 yet. And I think that you all are aware that
22 their approach, really, is to look at kind of a

1 contemporary infrastructure and that will have a
2 common vocabulary. And they're looking to really
3 minimize kind of the visual impact on the
4 streetscape.

5 DDOT is still working on this issue
6 and hopefully we will get something from them
7 soon, on what that design will eventually look
8 like. I don't know if Diane Sullivan may have
9 some further insight on that as well.

10 MS. SULLIVAN: Hi, Tom. Yes, this is
11 Diane Sullivan, I'm the Director of the Urban
12 Design and Plan Review Program at NCPC.

13 In talking with the District, small
14 cell is proceeding for, right now, installations
15 on wood poles, which are largely those in alleys
16 and residential areas that are not as visible.

17 What has happened is the District has
18 been looking at the engineering requirements for
19 attachments to the poles that are more in the
20 public right-of-way. And they've determined that
21 it needs further study.

22 So, while there was a big focus on the

1 design last year, they're sort of stopping that
2 at the time to actually look at the engineering
3 requirements before that proceeds.

4 So, they're doing some pilot projects
5 for testing purposes right now. So, it may be a
6 little while longer before we actually see the
7 designs come back.

8 I think they want to just make sure
9 that they understand the engineering correctly
10 before even pursuing this even further. So, we
11 see that as a good thing.

12 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: We agree.

13 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: And we can
15 probably all imagine that this technology is
16 going to continue to evolve and --

17 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: -- get smaller
19 and --

20 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: -- hopefully less
22 obtrusive, in terms of the way it populates our

1 urban fabric. So --

2 MS. SULLIVAN: That's right, yes.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: -- thank you,
4 we're glad to hear that. So, at this -- oh, I do
5 want to, since Commissioner Dixon is not on, he
6 did contact me a few weeks ago to talk about
7 small cell technology.

8 I just want to put it out there, don't
9 need to discuss it today, but some concerns he
10 was receiving from stakeholders and so forth had
11 to do with the kind of safety issues associated
12 with small cell technology as well.

13 And apparently, there have been some
14 recent articles about that. And so, just want to
15 also sort of put that on the radar as something
16 that we should be asking questions about,
17 associated with our new guidelines.

18 Well, with that, I want to ask if
19 there are any other followup questions from any
20 of the Commissioners? And if you do want to
21 follow up, please remember to identify yourself
22 before speaking and we look -- it looks like

1 Commissioner Cash would like to add something.
2 We don't have your microphone.

3 COMMISSIONER CASH: No, Mr. Chairman,
4 I was just putting my video up because I was done
5 with a task and could kind of get back to here,
6 but I don't have any questions.

7 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: Okay, great.
8 Thank you. Are there any questions or comments
9 at this point?

10 6. ADJOURNMENT

11 COMMISSIONER GALLAS: All right. Well,
12 this concludes what I would consider to be a
13 pretty successful first virtual meeting for our
14 April 29 special meeting. I really want to thank
15 everyone who adjusted schedules and so forth to
16 participate in this.

17 We really saw this as an important way
18 to engage amongst us before our formal meeting on
19 May 7, which will, as Ms. Koster pointed out,
20 have a lot of testimony from citizens and outside
21 parties.

22 And so, we're kind of growing up. We

1 just went through grade school and maybe on May
2 7, we'll be going to high school, we'll graduate
3 a little bit, we hope.

4 But hopefully this procedure seemed
5 comfortable enough. It's certainly not as
6 spontaneous as we might all like, but we also
7 have to consider that certain protocols have to
8 be maintained so that we can ensure that these
9 meetings are properly conducted and official in
10 the business that we're here to do.

11 So, really want to thank, first of
12 all, the staff and the NCPC team, who pulled all
13 this together. I also want to thank all the
14 Commissioners for your participation in this and
15 testing earlier in the week and for making the
16 time today to be able to do this.

17 So, with that, I think this concludes
18 our meeting. The Commission's next regular
19 scheduled meeting is May 7, 2020. There's
20 information on www.ncpc.gov on how to view or
21 participate in that meeting.

22 And, Commissioners, as you exit the

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

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Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
my direction; further, that said transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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