DATE: June 4, 2021
TO: Kevin Lewis, Assistant Superintendent Support Services, LCPS
FROM: Matt Penning, Director of Development, Milestone Towers
RE: Mickie Gordon Park Wireless Tower Project – Update

I am writing to provide an update on the Mickie Gordon Park project as well as information on the next steps.

In the last week, I have spoken with representatives of the Blue Ridge District and Town of Middleburg about the project. I conveyed Milestone’s commitment to soliciting engagement and working with all stakeholders towards an acceptable solution that will provide the necessary improved wireless service while also maintaining the historic character of the area.

In response to concerns raised regarding the visibility of the proposed 185-foot tall monopole, Milestone – in consultation with AT&T – is offering to reduce the overall height of the tower by thirty (30) feet. Further reduction in height will result in significant degradation of service and compromise AT&T’s ability to provide adequate coverage to the targeted geographic area.

If authorized by the School Board to move forward with land development applications, Milestone will hold a community balloon fly so that all interested parties may visualize the new height. Milestone will also host another community meeting and share photosimulations / renderings of the facility at the new height, listen to feedback, and answer any questions. Notice of both these events will be sent out in advance of the dates, as well as coordinated with the Middleburg and Blue Ridge offices.

The proposal will ultimately be required to go through rigorous review by several different agencies and departments, including regulatory review by the FAA and FCC, which includes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 review. In addition, as part of the land use development process, the application will be reviewed and commented on by various County planning staff agencies, as well as subject to public hearings before the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. A site plan and building permit will be required as well.

Thank you for your team’s support of this proposal and initiative to improve wireless and broadband connectivity in Western Loudoun. Please feel free to distribute this letter as you see fit – and do not hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns.

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