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**Gary Christenson, Mayor**

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Malden City Council  
Attn: Debbie DeMaria, President  
110 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

Dear President DeMaria:

I did not sign the Small Cell Antenna Ordinance not because of its overall goals and objectives but rather because I believe there are amendments needed to strengthen it and make enforcement more workable for our staff. In working with the Building Commissioner, the suggestions are as follows:

- The Massachusetts Electrical Code regulates the installation of this equipment and a permit fee can be imposed to install them. However, that fee can only be commensurate with the services provided. In the current ordinance, we question the validity of the yearly inspection fee as there is no annual inspection provided for this equipment in the Electrical Code.
- The application process does need to conform to the Mass State Standard Application to Perform Electrical Work and the Ordinance references are not found on that form. We do think that locations can be reviewed by the City Council if that is written into Chapter 12, Zoning as an accessory or other use. Declaring it as a Use also removes the option for the applicant to appeal the decision of the Council in denying a location.
- As far as the regulations imposed by the Ordinance relative to dimensions, installation heights, and color of the equipment, they appear overreaching and burdensome. This equipment is not "made to order" and companies are not going to pay to fabricate special antennas. Additionally, this equipment is placed at the top of poles which are already covered with wires, insulators, etc.

Overall, we believe that Malden needs to have this equipment available and at the same time, providers need Malden as a location for their equipment to serve their customers and keep up with new technology. A simpler version which establishes City approval of location along with permitting by our Building Department would provide the appropriate oversight, compensation for the City, and flexibility for the providers.

Again, we hope that we can work with you on these suggestions as soon as time permits. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Christenson".

**GARY CHRISTENSON**  
Mayor, City of Malden