

May 26, 2022

ANTIOCH PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: UP-22-02, V-02-02 Use Permit, Variance and Design Review for T-Mobile El Campanil Wireless Facility, 602 West 2nd Street

Dear Commissioners:

It seems a little strange to begin a letter with, “*About a quarter century ago*”, but that is literally the time frame touching on this issue. The City of Antioch hired me as the Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Director nearly 25 years ago to work on bringing new jobs to Antioch and revitalizing the Rivertown area. I was subsequently appointed to the city manager’s position and continued to emphasize business development throughout the city.

Bringing businesses to the Rivertown area was a special challenge because of its age and seeming remoteness from Antioch’s retail centers. In fact, a survey that was taken during that time noted that well over half of Antioch’s residents had never been to the downtown area! There were, however, small business owners who continued to locate there and the rebirth of El Campanil Performing Arts Theatre as the downtown rekindled its vitality. But throughout those years, Rivertown suffered from a significant shortcoming: adequate cell phone reception. This has been documented in the Downtown Specific Plan along with encouragement to rectify the problem.

T-Mobile’s desire to bring greatly improved cellular phone service to the entire Rivertown area is the first feasible attempt to improve cellular service for residents, business operators and visitors alike! It’s been a very long 25 years awaiting this opportunity! The Planning Division’s analysis of the project presents a compelling case for approving the requested Use Permit, Variance and Design of T-Mobile’s facility.

Your approval of this application will be appreciated for much longer than the next quarter of a century!

Respectfully,
Mike Ramsey, President
El Campanil Theatre Preservation Foundation

