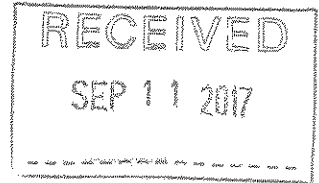


Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communications Committee

Martha's Vineyard Commission

PO Box 1447

Oak Bluffs Ma, 02557



September 4, 2017

Re: Proposed Verizon Tower Extension


The Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communications Committee was formed in 2016 to address existing and future infrastructure challenges within our regional emergency communications system. The committee is comprised of representatives of the Island's EMS, Fire, Police and Sheriff's departments.

Our present system is heavily dependent on analog copper phones lines, otherwise known as "Plain Old Telephone Service or POTS". These POTS lines are directly connected between the 911 dispatch center and remote sites across the Island where the radio transmissions are rebroadcast between the dispatchers and the first responders. These POTS lines are the weak link in our regional emergency communications system. The lines are old and have limited capacity. They are subject to frequent repair issues and are vulnerable to storm and weather related damage. Any of which can take our 911 system down. Verizon is moving away from this old technology and as such has extremely limited resources to maintain/repair this system. In fact, they no longer have "on Island" repair crews. In the event of natural disaster, such as Hurricane Bob, our emergency communications system could be compromised for a significant period of time.

It is with this knowledge that the MVPSCC has been investigating the development of a more robust infrastructure that would not be vendor dependent for maintenance, service or expansion. Any upgrades in our regional emergency communications system would require a clear line of site between select Vineyard locations. An extension in the height of the Tisbury Verizon tower would be an integral part in that future system.

Therefore, the Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communications Committee, representing the Vineyards public safety agencies requests that should Verizon be granted an extension in the height of their Tisbury tower, that they would be "conditioned" to reserve space on said tower, at no cost, for future public safety needs.

Respectfully submitted,



Chief John F Schilling,

Chairman, MVPSCC