

# MIAMI BEACH

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Staff Report & Recommendation

### Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: September 03, 2019

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP  
Planning Director



SUBJECT: DRB19-0416, DRB19-0417, DRB19-0418, DRB19-0419, DRB19-0420, DRB19-0422 and DRB19-0429  
**Citywide Distributed Antenna System (DAS) Nodes**

**Citywide Distributed Antenna System (DAS) Nodes.** An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the installation of a Stealth Distributed Antenna System (DAS) node within the public right-of-way at the following approximate location outside of historic districts: 1235 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 1064 West Avenue, 1200 14<sup>th</sup> Court, 2795 Prairie Avenue, 1682 Bay Road, 1207 Lincoln Road, 738 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval with conditions

#### **SITE DATA:**

##### **DRB19-0416 – 1235 8<sup>th</sup> Street (CD-2)**

Legal Description: Latitude – North 25° 46' 41.6", Longitude – West 80° 08' 29.3";  
X = 938664.6811 Y = 526001.3426

##### **DRB19-0417– 1064 West Avenue (RM-3)**

Legal Description: Latitude – North 25° 46' 53.7", Longitude – West 80° 08' 32.1"  
X = 938417.9763 Y = 527228.7755

##### **DRB19-0418– 1200 14<sup>th</sup> Court (CD-1)**

Legal Description: Latitude – North 25° 47' 10.6", Longitude – West 80° 08' 28.8"  
X = 938707.4352 Y = 528930.7505

##### **DRB19-0419– 2795 Prairie Avenue (GU)**

Legal Description: Latitude – North 25° 48' 12.6", Longitude – West 80° 07' 57.8"  
X = 941507.7189 Y = 535214.3027

##### **DRB19-0420– 1682 Bay Road (RM-2)**

Legal Description: Latitude – North 25° 47' 30.2", Longitude – West 80° 08' 37.2"  
X = 937927.9329 Y = 530907.7737

##### **DRB19-0422 – 1207 Lincoln Road (CD-2)**

Legal Description: Latitude – North 25° 47' 25.9", Longitude – West 80° 08' 29.5"  
X = 938634.8638 Y = 530479.2149

##### **DRB19-0429– 738 1<sup>st</sup> Street (CPS-1)**

Legal Description: Latitude – North 25° 46' 11.4", Longitude – West 80° 08' 08.6"  
X = 940595.7218 Y = 522965.1122

**THE PROJECT:**

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "City of Miami Beach Planning Department, Crown Castle Small Wireless Facilities SFL10261, 1235 8<sup>th</sup> Street Miami Beach, FL 33139", "City of Miami Beach Planning Department, Crown Castle Small Wireless Facilities SFL 10267, 1064 West Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139", "City of Miami Beach Planning Department, Crown Castle Small Wireless Facilities SFL 10273, 1200 14<sup>th</sup> Court, Miami Beach, FL 33139", "City of Miami Beach Planning Department, Crown Castle Small Wireless Facilities SFL 10280 2795 Prairie Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33140", "City of Miami Beach Planning Department, Crown Castle Small Wireless Facilities SFL 10286 1682 Bay Road, Miami Beach, FL 33139", "City of Miami Beach Planning Department, Crown Castle Small Wireless Facilities FL 6464 1207 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, FL 33139", and "City of Miami Beach Planning Department, Crown Castle Small Wireless Facilities SFL 10246 738 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami Beach, FL 33139", as prepared by Crown Castle, dated July 08, 2019.

The applicant is proposing to install a Stealth Distributed Antenna System (DAS) node within the public right-of-way at the following approximate locations: 1235 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 1064 West Avenue, 1200 14<sup>th</sup> Court, 2795 Prairie Avenue, 1682 Bay Road, 1207 Lincoln Road, and 738 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

**COMPLIANCE WITH DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA:**

Design Review encompasses the examination of architectural drawings for consistency with the criteria stated below with regard to the aesthetics, appearances, safety, and function of the structure or proposed structures in relation to the site, adjacent structures and surrounding community. Staff recommends that the following criteria are found to be satisfied, not satisfied or not applicable, as hereto indicated:

1. The existing and proposed conditions of the lot, including but not necessarily limited to topography, vegetation, trees, drainage, and waterways.  
**Satisfied**
2. The location of all existing and proposed buildings, drives, parking spaces, walkways, means of ingress and egress, drainage facilities, utility services, landscaping structures, signs, and lighting and screening devices.  
**Not Satisfied, staff recommends the relocation of one of the DAS nodes (DRB19-0420).**
3. The dimensions of all buildings, structures, setbacks, parking spaces, floor area ratio, height, lot coverage and any other information that may be reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of the underlying zoning district, and any applicable overlays, for a particular application or project.  
**Satisfied**
4. The color, design, selection of landscape materials and architectural elements of Exterior Building surfaces and primary public interior areas for Developments requiring a Building Permit in areas of the City identified in section 118-252.  
**Satisfied**
5. The proposed site plan, and the location, appearance and design of new and existing Buildings and Structures are in conformity with the standards of this Ordinance and other applicable ordinances, architectural and design guidelines as adopted and amended

periodically by the Design Review Board and Historic Preservation Boards, and all pertinent master plans.

**Not Satisfied, staff recommends the relocation of one of the DAS nodes (DRB19-0420).**

6. The proposed Structure, and/or additions or modifications to an existing structure, indicates a sensitivity to and is compatible with the environment and adjacent Structures, and enhances the appearance of the surrounding properties.

**Satisfied**

7. The design and layout of the proposed site plan, as well as all new and existing buildings shall be reviewed so as to provide an efficient arrangement of land uses. Particular attention shall be given to safety, crime prevention and fire protection, relationship to the surrounding neighborhood, impact on contiguous and adjacent Buildings and lands, pedestrian sight lines and view corridors.

**Not Applicable**

8. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement within and adjacent to the site shall be reviewed to ensure that clearly defined, segregated pedestrian access to the site and all buildings is provided for and that all parking spaces are usable and are safely and conveniently arranged; pedestrian furniture and bike racks shall be considered. Access to the Site from adjacent roads shall be designed so as to interfere as little as possible with traffic flow on these roads and to permit vehicles a rapid and safe ingress and egress to the Site.

**Satisfied**

9. Lighting shall be reviewed to ensure safe movement of persons and vehicles and reflection on public property for security purposes and to minimize glare and reflection on adjacent properties. Lighting shall be reviewed to assure that it enhances the appearance of structures at night.

**Not Applicable**

10. Landscape and paving materials shall be reviewed to ensure an adequate relationship with and enhancement of the overall Site Plan design.

**Not Applicable**

11. Buffering materials shall be reviewed to ensure that headlights of vehicles, noise, and light from structures are adequately shielded from public view, adjacent properties and pedestrian areas.

**Not Applicable**

12. The proposed structure has an orientation and massing which is sensitive to and compatible with the building site and surrounding area and which creates or maintains important view corridor(s).

**Not Satisfied, staff recommends the relocation of one of the DAS nodes (DRB19-0420) in order to preserve the waterway view corridor.**

13. The building has, where feasible, space in that part of the ground floor fronting a street or streets which is to be occupied for residential or commercial uses; likewise, the upper

floors of the pedestal portion of the proposed building fronting a street, or streets shall have residential or commercial spaces, shall have the appearance of being a residential or commercial space or shall have an architectural treatment which shall buffer the appearance of the parking structure from the surrounding area and is integrated with the overall appearance of the project.

**Not Applicable**

14. The building shall have an appropriate and fully integrated rooftop architectural treatment which substantially screens all mechanical equipment, stairs and elevator towers.

**Not Applicable**

15. An addition on a building site shall be designed, sited and massed in a manner which is sensitive to and compatible with the existing improvement(s).

**Satisfied**

16. All portions of a project fronting a street or sidewalk shall incorporate an architecturally appropriate amount of transparency at the first level in order to achieve pedestrian compatibility and adequate visual interest.

**Satisfied**

17. The location, design, screening and buffering of all required service bays, delivery bays, trash and refuse receptacles, as well as trash rooms shall be arranged so as to have a minimal impact on adjacent properties.

**Not Applicable**

18. In addition to the foregoing criteria, subsection [118-]104(6)(t) of the City Code shall apply to the design review board's review of any proposal to place, construct, modify or maintain a wireless communications facility or other over the air radio transmission or radio reception facility in the public rights-of-way.

**Satisfied**

19. The structure and site complies with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in Chapter 133, Article II, as applicable.

**Not Applicable**

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH SEA LEVEL RISE AND RESILIENCY REVIEW CRITERIA**

Section 133-50(a) of the Land Development establishes review criteria for sea level rise and resiliency that must be considered as part of the review process for board orders. The following is an analysis of the request based upon these criteria:

- (1) A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.

**Not Applicable**

- (2) Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.

**Not Applicable**

- (3) Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.

**Not Applicable**

- (4) Whether resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants) will be provided.

**Not Applicable**

- (5) Whether adopted sea level rise projections in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, as may be revised from time-to-time by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, including a study of land elevation and elevation of surrounding properties were considered.

**Not Applicable**

- (6) The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-ways and adjacent land.

**Not Applicable**

- (7) Where feasible and appropriate, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation.

**Not Applicable**

- (8) Existing buildings shall be, where reasonably feasible and appropriate, elevated to the base flood elevation.

**Not Applicable**

- (9) When habitable space is located below the base flood elevation plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided in accordance with Chapter of 54 of the City Code.

**Not Applicable**

- (10) Where feasible and appropriate, water retention systems shall be provided.

**Not Applicable**

**STAFF ANALYSIS**

The applicant is proposing to install seven (7) telecommunication utility poles within the City's rights-of-way. Having worked closely with staff, the applicant has produced two options for right-of-way infrastructure that conceals DAS nodes; a utility stealth designed pole with an integrated street light and a singular, stand-alone utility stealth designed pole. In four of the seven instances, the applicant is proposing to remove the existing street pole with cobra head lights to install integrated light poles with light fixtures at the following locations 1235 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 1064 1200 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 1207 Lincoln Road and for the other three locations at 2795 Prairie Avenue and 1682 Bay Road and 738 1<sup>st</sup> Street, the applicant is proposing to install free-standing DAS poles with no integrated lighting solution, of which are located outside of local historic districts.

As opposed to cellular companies locating antennas on large monopoles or lattice tower structures in and around the city, a DAS network creates a grid of smaller scale antennas distributed more evenly throughout the city, usually installed to satisfy a deficiency of coverage and/or capacity in a dense urban setting. The DAS system is intended to supplement existing wireless communications networks in the City by strengthening the signal between existing

antenna towers providing cellular and digital communications signals to the modern digital network of smartphones, tablets and computers.

Staff has met with the design team and has performed site inspections for each of the proposed locations. Staff would note that due to conditions that vary in our City, such as historic properties, sidewalk width and existing street furniture, each site requires careful review and analysis so as to not negatively impact the quality of the architectural character or pedestrian experience. A joint effort between the applicant and staff is required to ensure that the best location, in terms of aesthetic appropriateness and visibility, is achieved while still meeting the radiofrequency objectives by covering the areas that need to be covered.

#### DRB19-0416– 1235 8<sup>th</sup> Street

At this location the applicant is proposing to remove an existing 'cobra head' street light and install a DAS utility pole with an integrated "cobra head" style street light within the sidewalk along the north side of 8<sup>th</sup> Street, near s surface parking lot and towards the intersection of Alton Court. Staff fully supports the removal of an existing City light pole for the installation of a stand-alone DAS utility stealth designed pole with an integrated street light since it does not result in a net increase of street furniture and provided that the location allows for pedestrian and ADA accessibility; in all, this is the optimal solution.

#### DRB19-0417– 1064 West Avenue

At this location the applicant is proposing to remove an existing 'cobra head' street light and install a DAS utility pole with an integrated "cobra head" style street light within a landscaped swale area adjacent to the sidewalk along the west side of West Avenue. Staff fully supports the removal of an existing City light pole for the installation of a stand-alone DAS utility stealth designed pole with an integrated street light since it does not result in a net increase of street furniture and provided that the location allows for pedestrian and ADA accessibility; in all, this is the optimal solution.

#### DRB19-0418– 1200 14<sup>th</sup> Court

At this location the applicant is proposing to remove an existing 'cobra head' street light and install a DAS utility pole with an integrated "cobra head" style street light within the sidewalk along the south side of 14<sup>th</sup> Court, towards the intersection of Alton Road. Staff fully supports the removal of an existing City light pole for the installation of a stand-alone DAS utility stealth designed pole with an integrated street light since it does not result in a net increase of street furniture and provided that the location allows for pedestrian and ADA accessibility; in all, this is the optimal solution.

#### DRB19-0419– 2795 Prairie Avenue

At this location the applicant is proposing to install a stand-alone DAS utility stealth within a greenspace area in the public right-of-way towards the eastern edge of the old Miami Beach Par 3 Recreational Golf Course. Staff would note that the street lighting in this area generally consists of 'acorn' style light poles and there are no existing 'cobra head' style street lights located along this block. Staff does not believe that the introduction of an 'acorn' style light fixture on the proposed DAS utility pole would be appropriate. As such, staff is supportive of the proposed location of the stand-alone pole within a landscaped area of the public right-of-way.

#### DRB19-0420– 1682 Bay Road

At this location the applicant is proposing to install a stand-alone DAS utility stealth within a landscape areas adjacent to he canal at the dead-end of Bay Road. Staff would note that there is an existing cobra-head street lighting in this area, approximately 35 feet to the south along the sidewalk. The 35'-0" high pole would be very noticeable against this open waterway axis of the Bay Road and recommends that the applicant relocate across Bay Road and utilize a one-one-one replacement with a cobra head light fixture. , provided the sidewalk widths are maintained and ensure maximum obstacle-free pedestrian mobility. As such, staff is not supportive of the proposed location of the stand-alone pole and recommends relocation as noted herein.

#### DRB19-0422 – 1207 Lincoln Road

At this location the applicant is proposing to remove an existing 'cobra head' street light and install a DAS utility pole with an integrated "cobra head" style street light within the sidewalk along the north side of Lincoln Road, towards the intersection of Alton Road. Staff fully supports the removal of an existing City light pole for the installation of a stand-alone DAS utility stealth designed pole with an integrated street light since it does not result in a net increase of street furniture and provided that the location allows for pedestrian and ADA accessibility; in all, this is the optimal solution.

#### DRB19-0429– 738 1<sup>st</sup> Street

At this location the applicant is proposing to install a stand-alone DAS utility stealth within a greenspace area in the public right-of-way along the south side of the 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Staff would note that the street lighting in this area generally consists of 'acorn' style light poles and there are no existing 'cobra head' style street lights located along this block. Staff does not believe that the introduction of an 'acorn' style light fixture on the proposed DAS utility pole would be appropriate. As such, staff is supportive of the proposed location of the stand-alone pole within a landscaped area of the public right-of-way.

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Pursuant to Federal Law, the City does not have the ability to render a decision against a telecommunication facility based on perceived health impacts, provided the proposed equipment is in conformance with RF emissions limits established by the FCC. The primary area for City review is that of aesthetics of the DAS network. Staff has relatively few concerns about the aesthetic impact of the proposed node at this location and finds no concerns over the aesthetics or visual cluttering of this node due to interference with sight lines from specific historic structures as this location is immediate west of a City surface parking lot.

It is important to add that on February 11, 2015 the City Commission adopted modifications to the City's Land Use Development Regulations pertaining to telecommunications regulations. This Ordinance, among other things, regulates the acceptable locations for siting telecommunications equipment, including distance separations from existing and future antenna systems, distances from residential uses, encouragement of co-locating equipment onto single facilities whenever possible, and minimizing (or "stealth") equipment as much as possible. Staff has determined that the subject application complies with the regulations contained within the subject telecommunications ordinance.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

In view of the foregoing analysis, staff recommends the applications be **approved** with conditions, subject to the conditions enumerated in the attached Draft Order, which address the inconsistencies with the aforementioned Design Review criteria and Sea Level Rise criteria.

**DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**  
**City of Miami Beach, Florida**

MEETING DATE: September 03, 2019

FILE NO: DRB19-0422 – 1207 Lincoln Road

PROPERTY: Citywide Distributed Antenna System (DAS) Nodes: 1207 Lincoln Road

APPLICANT: Crown Castle NG East LLC

Legal Description: Latitude – North 25°47' 25.9", Longitude – West 80°08' 29.5"  
X = 938634.8638 Y = 530479.2149

IN RE: The Application for Design Review Approval for the installation of a Stealth Distributed Antenna System (DAS) node within the public right-of-way at the following approximate location outside of historic districts:  
**1207 Lincoln Road.**

**ORDER**

The City of Miami Beach Design Review Board makes the following FINDINGS OF FACT, based upon the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing and which are part of the record for this matter:

**I. Design Review**

- A. The Board has jurisdiction pursuant to Section 118-252(a) of the Miami Beach Code. The property is not located within a designated local historic district and is not an individually designated historic site.
- B. Based on the plans and documents submitted with the application, testimony and information provided by the applicant, and the reasons set forth in the Planning Department Staff Report, the project as submitted is consistent with the Design Review Criteria in Section 118-251 of the Miami Beach Code.
- C. Based on the plans and documents submitted with the application, testimony and information provided by the applicant, and the reasons set forth in the Planning Department Staff Report, the project as submitted is consistent with Sea Level Rise Criteria in Section 133-50(a) of the Miami Beach Code.
- D. The project would remain consistent with the criteria and requirements of section 118-251 if the following conditions are met:
  1. Revised elevation, site plan and floor plan drawings shall be submitted to and approved by staff; at a minimum, such drawings shall incorporate the following:
    - a. The new replacement DAS utility pole with an integrated "cobra head" style street light shall be approved as proposed.



- b. The exterior of the steel pole shall be powder coated finished and the final exterior color selection shall be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
- c. The applicant shall submit a restrictive covenant agreeing to design, construct and maintain in perpetuity, the DAS utility pole and integrated street light if proposed, including bearing all costs associated with its design, construction and maintenance, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by the Public Works Director and City Attorney. The covenant shall be recorded in the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- d. In the event the City adopts a new lighting standard as part of a Neighborhood Streetscape Plan, the applicant shall replace the cobra head lighting fixture with the new City approved light fixture.
- e. If applicable, Applicant shall obtain any and all required approvals from the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") prior to obtaining a City Right-of-Way or Building.
- f. Any signage currently located on an existing light pole that is proposed to be replaced by a new DAS pole, shall be reintroduced on the new DAS pole in a manner that does not obstruct the equipment panels or vents, subject to the review and approval by the applicable City Department. In the event the signage cannot be reinstalled on the DAS pole due to height or other technical restrictions, a new location for the signage shall be identified through coordination with the applicable City Department.
- g. A copy of all pages of the recorded Final Order shall be scanned into the plans submitted for building permit and shall be located immediately after the front cover page of the permit plans.
- h. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the project Architect shall verify, in writing, that the subject project has been constructed in accordance with the plans approved by the Planning Department for Building Permit.

**In accordance with Section 118-262, the applicant, or the city manager on behalf of the City Administration, or an affected person, Miami Design Preservation League or Dade Heritage Trust may seek review of any order of the Design Review Board by the City Commission, except that orders granting or denying a request for rehearing shall not be reviewed by the Commission.**

**II. Variance(s)**

- A. No variance(s) were filed as part of this application.

**III. General Terms and Conditions applying to both 'I. Design Review Approval and II. Variances' noted above.**

- A. The Design Review Board retains jurisdiction so that should any new development or construction adjacent to the approved DAS Node require the removal of this DAS Node, this approval is subject to modification or revocation pursuant to a noticed hearing before the Design Review Board.
- B. The Final Order shall be recorded in the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- C. All equipment shall be serviced and maintained by Crown Castle.
- D. Satisfaction of all conditions is required for the Planning Department to give its approval on a Certificate of Occupancy; a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or Partial Certificate of Occupancy may also be conditionally granted Planning Departmental approval.
- E. The Final Order is not severable, and if any provision or condition hereof is held void or unconstitutional in a final decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, the order shall be returned to the Board for reconsideration as to whether the order meets the criteria for approval absent the stricken provision or condition, and/or it is appropriate to modify the remaining conditions or impose new conditions.
- F. The conditions of approval herein are binding on the applicant, the property's owners, operators, and all successors in interest and assigns.
- G. Nothing in this order authorizes a violation of the City Code or other applicable law, nor allows a relaxation of any requirement or standard set forth in the City Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing, which are part of the record for this matter, and the staff report and analysis, which are adopted herein, including the staff recommendations, which were amended and adopted by the Board, that the **application** is GRANTED for the above-referenced project subject to those certain conditions specified in Paragraph I,II,III of the Findings of Fact, to which the applicant has agreed.

PROVIDED, the applicant shall build substantially in accordance with the plans, entitled "City of Miami Beach Planning Department, Crown Castle Small Wireless Facilities FL 6464 1207 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, FL 33139", dated July 08, 2019, and as approved by the Design Review Board, as determined by staff.

When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order. No building permit may be issued unless and until all conditions of approval that must be satisfied prior to permit issuance, as set forth in this Order, have been met.

The issuance of the approval does not relieve the applicant from obtaining all other required Municipal, County and/or State reviews and permits, including final zoning approval. If adequate handicapped access is not provided on the Board-approved plans, this approval does not mean that such handicapped access is not required. When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order.

