

1 [Adopting findings related to the conditional use appeal on property located at 5200 Geary  
2 Boulevard.]

3 **Motion adopting findings related to the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval**  
4 **of Conditional use Application No. 2002.0057C (which authorized, subject to certain**  
5 **conditions, the mounting of six panel antennas to an existing light pole on the upper**  
6 **deck of the three-level Geary Mall Parking Garage as part of a wireless**  
7 **telecommunications network) within an NC-3 (Moderate Scale Neighborhood**  
8 **Commercial) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District, pursuant to Section**  
9 **712.83 of the Planning Code for the proposed project located at 5200 Geary Boulevard,**  
10 **north side between 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenues (Lot 045 in Assessor's Block 1448).**

11  
12 The appellant, Robert Blum, filed a timely appeal on May 20, 2002, protesting the  
13 approval by the Planning Commission of an application for a conditional use authorization  
14 (Conditional Use Application No. 2002.0057C, approved by Planning Commission Motion No.  
15 16382 on April 18, 2002) to mount, subject to certain conditions imposed by the Planning  
16 Commission, a total of six panel antennas to an existing light pole on the upper deck of the  
17 three-level Geary Mall Parking Garage, within an NC-3 (Moderate Scale Neighborhood  
18 Commercial) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District, pursuant to Section 712.83  
19 of the Planning Code for the proposed project located at 5200 Geary Boulevard, north side  
20 between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenues (Lot 045 in Assessor's Block 1448).

21 The San Francisco Planning Department adopted Wireless Telecommunications  
22 Services ("WTS") Facilities Siting Guidelines in August of 1996 ("Guidelines") to assist the  
23 Department in its consideration of applications for conditional use authorization to install WTS  
24 facilities. These Guidelines are not binding on the Board of Supervisors. The Guidelines  
25 establish location preferences for installation of WTS facilities throughout the City. The

1 location preferences set forth seven location categories, with category 1 being the most  
2 preferred sites and category 7 being the most disfavored sites. The property located at 5200  
3 Geary Boulevard falls within category 4, as it is a wholly commercial structure within a NC-3  
4 Zoning District. This site was previously considered by the applicant (Metro PCS) to be an  
5 alternate site to the applicant's preferred site at 4715 Geary Boulevard, but it was rejected as  
6 "not technically feasible" to provide the necessary coverage. Other proposed sites for location  
7 of the proposed antennas were considered by the applicant.

8 The public hearing before the Board of Supervisors on said appeal was scheduled to  
9 be heard on June 17, 2002. On June 17, 2002, the Board conducted a duly noticed hearing  
10 on the appeal from the Planning Commission's approval referred to in the first paragraph of  
11 this motion. Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board disapproved the  
12 decision of the Planning Commission (Planning Commission No. 16382), and denied the  
13 issuance of requested Conditional Use Application No. 2002.0057C.

14 In reviewing the appeal of the approval of the requested conditional use authorization,  
15 this Board reviewed and considered the written record before the Board and all of the public  
16 comments made in support of and opposed to the appeal.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and  
18 County of San Francisco hereby adopts as its own and incorporates by reference herein, as  
19 though fully set forth, the findings made by the Planning Commission in its Motion No. 16382,  
20 dated April 18, 2002, except as indicated below; and, be it

21 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors further took notice that the project  
22 was categorically exempt from environmental review as a Class I, 3 and 11 exemption under  
23 Title 14 of the California Administrative Code. The Board finds that there have been no  
24 substantial changes in project circumstances, and no new information of substantial  
25 importance that would change the determination of categorical exemption issued by the

1 Planning Department; and, be it

2 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that:

3 1. At the public hearing, and in documents submitted by the applicant, the applicant  
4 stated that the installation of these proposed antennas is necessary to meet the applicant's  
5 service demands within the geographic service area defined by the applicant. At the public  
6 hearing, however, the applicant was unable to demonstrate credibly that the proposed  
7 facilities are necessary. No members of the public testified that there was a need for further  
8 wireless service in this neighborhood. Many members of the public testified that there was no  
9 need for further wireless services in the neighborhood. Following further questions of the  
10 applicant's representatives by members of the Board of Supervisors, the Board determined  
11 that the written and oral information provided by the applicant was not persuasive or  
12 objectively verified, and did not establish that the proposed site is necessary to meet the  
13 community needs. Consistent with this finding, and based on the evidence presented and  
14 information contained in the application, the Board further determined that disapproving the  
15 decision of the Planning Commission by its Motion 16382, dated April 18, 2002, would not  
16 prohibit, or have the effect of prohibiting, the provision of personal wireless services in the  
17 area proximate to 5200 Geary Boulevard.

18 2. The public testimony at the public hearing, and the public documentation submitted  
19 in support of the appellant's objections to the Planning Commission decision overwhelmingly  
20 supported appellant's position that there is no necessity for the proposed six panel antennas  
21 to be approved and installed for residential or business purposes in the neighborhood.

22 3. The public testimony at the public hearing, and the public documentation submitted  
23 in support of the appellant's objections to the Planning Commission decision overwhelmingly  
24 supported appellant's position that the location of the proposed six panel antennas at the  
25 proposed site will constitute a visual and industrial blight for the neighborhood.

1           4. Nothing in the record suggests that the Board's decision to disapprove the Planning  
2 Commission's decision in this case unreasonably discriminates against the applicant, and the  
3 Board, therefore, determined that disapproving the decision of the Planning Commission  
4 would not unreasonably discriminate in favor of providers of functionally equivalent services.

5           5. Nothing in the record suggests that the Board's decision to disapprove the Planning  
6 Commission's decision in this case limits, or prohibits, access to WTS service in the area  
7 proximate to 5200 Geary Boulevard.

8           6. Nothing in the record suggests that the area proximate to 5200 Geary Boulevard is  
9 not already served by at least one other wireless service provider. Nothing in the record  
10 suggest that the Board's decision to disapprove the Planning Commission's decision in this  
11 case will limit or prohibit the filling of a significant gap in WTS services either in the form of  
12 limited access to network facilities by wireless users in the neighborhood, or interrupted  
13 communications of wireless users in the neighborhood.

14           7. The applicant has failed to show that the proposed antennas will fill an existing need  
15 for WTS services in the neighborhood, or that their proposal would be the least intrusive way  
16 to provide necessary services.

17           FURTHER MOVED, That based upon the findings made in the preceding paragraph,  
18 the Board of Supervisors finds that Finding 9 made by the Planning Commission was incorrect  
19 and without substantiation, and finds that the installation of the proposed antennas is not  
20 necessary or desirable for and compatible with the neighborhood or the community, and will  
21 only add an unnecessary and redundant service that will result in an additional intrusion of  
22 unnecessary, noticeable equipment into a neighborhood which includes a high proportion of  
23 residential property and small businesses, that the placement of the antennas is not so  
24 located, designed and treated architecturally as to minimize their visibility from public places,  
25 that they intrude into public vistas and disrupt the architectural design integrity of buildings in

1 the neighborhood, and that they are not in harmony with neighborhood character.

2 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that Finding 10 made by the  
3 Planning Commission was incorrect and without substantiation, and finds that the installation  
4 of the proposed antennas is not in conformity with, and would not implement the policies of  
5 the City's General Plan, in that the installation of the proposed antennas will not further any of  
6 the objectives referred to by the Planning Commission.

7 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that Finding 11 made by the  
8 Planning Commission was incorrect and without substantiation, and finds that the installation  
9 of the proposed antennas: is not necessary to preserve and enhance existing neighborhood  
10 retail uses and preserve and enhance future opportunities for resident employment in and  
11 ownership of such businesses; will be detrimental to the existing housing and neighborhood  
12 character; will not preserve and enhance the City's supply of affordable housing; and will not  
13 add to the City's preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

14 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that Finding 12 made by the  
15 Planning Commission was incorrect and without substantiation, and finds that the conditional  
16 use authorization would not promote the health, safety and welfare of the city, and will only  
17 add an unnecessary and redundant service that will result in an additional intrusion of  
18 unnecessary, noticeable equipment into a neighborhood which includes a high proportion of  
19 residential property.

20 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors, after carefully balancing the  
21 competing public and private interests, disapproved the decision of the Planning Commission  
22 by its Motion No. 16382, dated April 18, 2002, and denied the issuance of Conditional Use  
23 Application No. 2002.0057C.



# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails Motion

**File Number:** 021129

**Date Passed:** June 24, 2002

Motion adopting findings related to the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of Conditional use Application No. 2002.0057C (which authorized, subject to certain conditions, the mounting of six panel antennas to an existing light pole on the upper deck of the three-level Geary Mall Parking Garage as part of a wireless telecommunications network) within an NC-3 (Moderate Scale Neighborhood Commercial) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District, pursuant to Section 712.83 of the Planning Code for the proposed project located at 5200 Geary Boulevard, north side between 16 and 17th Avenues (Lot 045 in Assessor's Block 1448).

June 19, 2002 Board of Supervisors — REFERRED: Board of Supervisors

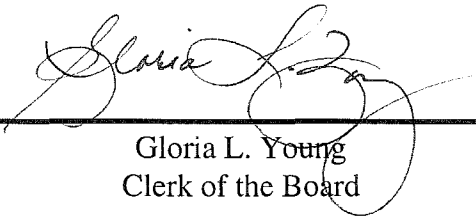
June 24, 2002 Board of Supervisors — APPROVED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom,  
Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

Absent: 1 - Hall

File No. 021129

I hereby certify that the foregoing Motion was APPROVED on June 24, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



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Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board