



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Gwen Schuler, Media and Communications Director
Jeff Lueders, Cable Communications & Franchise Services
COPY: Government Performance and Finance Committee
SUBJECT: Mobilitie, LLC, Telecommunications Franchise Agreement
DATE: March 16, 2017

SUMMARY:

This memo is written to outline the Mobilitie, LLC, Telecommunications Franchise Agreement which will be brought before the Government Performance and Finance Committee on April 5, 2017 for consideration. After a thorough negotiation process between the City of Tacoma and Mobilitie, LLC we have reached this agreement. We recommend forwarding this to the full City Council for adoption.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

By allowing Telecommunications Providers to utilize our Right of Way we continue to foster competition in the market place, increase choices for our residents, and allow for the growth of technology in our city.

In addition, this effort aligns with the following City Council priorities:

- Encourage and foster a diverse, productive, and sustainable economy
- Encourage and promote a high-performing, open, and engaged government
- Strengthen and support a safe, clean, and attractive community

BACKGROUND:

Mobilitie, LLC, has requested a telecommunications franchise agreement to build, operate and maintain a small cell wireless network in the City of Tacoma.

Revenue will be generated for the Public Works Department depending on the Pole Attachment agreement for devices attached to Street Light and Signal poles. Revenue will also be generated for TPU for devices attached to TPU Poles. These amounts are to be determined as TPU has hired a consultant to determine fair market value for pole attachment fees and then negotiations will occur between the parties.

ISSUE:

This is a 10-year Telecommunications Franchise Agreement between Mobilitie, LLC and the City of Tacoma. According to Title 16B of the Tacoma Municipal Code a Telecommunications Provider must have a Telecommunications Franchise Agreement with the City of Tacoma in order to gain permits and operate within our public right of way.

ALTERNATIVES:

Without this agreement, Mobilitie, LLC will not have access to the public right-of-way to construct, operate, maintain, remove, replace, and repair their small cell wireless infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION:

Our recommendation is to forward this Telecommunications Franchise Agreement between the City of Tacoma and Mobilitie, LLC to the full City Council for adoption.



FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact per the franchise agreement but the city will receive revenue per the Pole Attachment agreements with Public Works (Light and Signal poles) and TPU (Power poles).