



October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

The Honorable Brandon M. Scott  
Council President, Baltimore City Council  
100 N. Holliday Street, STE 400  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**RE: Next Generation of Wireless Networks – 5G**

Dear President Scott,

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write to provide information pertaining to the next generation of wireless networks, commonly referred to as 5G. 5G has the potential to provide tremendous economic benefits for Baltimore. We encourage the City Council to take steps to encourage deployment of 5G to position Maryland for the future.

The people of Maryland continue to demand – at increasing levels – access to wireless products and services. This is demonstrated by the fact that there are more wireless devices than people in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> In addition, over 1/3 of Maryland residents live in wireless-only households.<sup>2</sup> These demands from the wireless industry’s customers – your constituents – require that wireless networks be both updated to meet the existing demand and readied for the next generation of wireless networks.

Specifically, the existing rules governing wireless networks are designed for wireless facilities that can be up to 200 feet tall or more. Tomorrow’s networks will rely on new small cell technology, which will be placed on structures such as utility poles and streetlights.

Small cells will provide needed additional capacity to accommodate growing consumer demands and help connect 100 times more devices. In a few short years, nearly everything will be connected to ubiquitous wireless networks at speeds up to 100 times faster than today. Small cells will help unlock new 5G services from remote healthcare solutions to autonomous cars. Baltimore will be more connected, and entire sectors, from public safety to tourism, to transportation, will be transformed.

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<sup>1</sup> FCC, Voice Telephone Services Report: Status as of June 30, 2017, at <https://www.fcc.gov/voice-telephone-services-report>, last accessed 10/16/2019.

<sup>2</sup> CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/wireless\\_state\\_201712.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/wireless_state_201712.pdf), last accessed 10/16/2019.



Accenture has found that 5G and small cell deployments will provide tremendous economic benefits. Specifically, Accenture estimates that wireless operators will invest as much as \$275 billion nationwide over seven years creating up to three million jobs and adding approximately \$500 billion to the U.S. GDP through direct and indirect potential benefits.<sup>3</sup> In Baltimore specifically, 5G deployment may create over 5,700 jobs and increase GDP by over \$930 million.<sup>4</sup>

In closing, for Baltimore to realize the tremendous economic development benefits of 5G, forward-looking wireless infrastructure policy must be in place. CTIA encourages the City Council to move forward on such policies.

Sincerely,

Gerard Keegan  
Vice President, State Legislative Affairs  
CTIA

cc: Members, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Baltimore City Council

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<sup>3</sup> “How 5G Can Help Municipalities Become Vibrant Smart Cities,” Accenture Strategy, Jan 12, 2017, [https://newsroom.accenture.com/content/1101/files/Accenture\\_5G-Municipalities-Become-Smart-Cities.pdf](https://newsroom.accenture.com/content/1101/files/Accenture_5G-Municipalities-Become-Smart-Cities.pdf), last accessed 10/16/2019.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*