



Corporate NO: R054

Report COUNCIL DATE: March 13, 2000

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: March 3, 2000**

FROM: Manager, Facilities & Realty
Engineering Department **FILE: 0541-001**

SUBJECT: Licensing of City Hall Rooftop Antenna Space to Clearnet Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a Roof Top Licence agreement with Clearnet Inc. for the installation and operation of telecommunications antenna and related equipment on the roof of Surrey City Hall at 14245 - 56 Avenue.

BACKGROUND

Due to the elevation, lack of tall buildings, and the number of trees, the Panorama Ridge area has many “blind” areas that cannot be served by cellular communication companies. The City has had two of these companies contact us with regard to the possibility of locating a communications tower on the Civic Centre grounds. However, based on the reluctance of the City to grant approvals of towers over 40 feet in height, these firms have decided to wait until the City, in conjunction with the cellular communication companies, develops its Master Plan for cellular communications towers.

The four major cellular phone companies currently operating in Surrey are preparing a joint Master Plan for the next three to five years. This Master Plan will identify additional sites required by the carriers to improve coverage and accommodate user demand in Surrey, and include sites where co-location may be possible. It is anticipated that this Master Plan will be presented to Council later this spring.

DISCUSSION

To satisfy clients in the interim, Clearnet is requesting that the City approve the installation of three individual 4 ft. high antennas on the City Hall Rooftop. This installation will not solve the entire “blind” area on Panorama Ridge; however, it will substantially increase the coverage area for Clearnet. The installation of this equipment on the City Hall rooftop will not interfere with the current communications equipment on the roof, nor will it reduce the ability of the City to install equipment in the future.

CONCLUSION

Clearnet Inc. is requesting that the City approve a licence for the installation and operation of communications antennas on top of City Hall. This approval will allow the City to receive annual rent with minimal corresponding visual concerns to area residents or interference with existing City communications equipment. It is therefore recommended that Council approve the rooftop licence to Clearnet Inc.

Jorgen Johansen, P.Eng.

Manager, Facilities & Realty

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