



City of Lawrence

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April 16, 2009

Lawrence City Commission
6 E 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

RE: DR-03-20-09, Installation of Freenet Equipment on Downtown Light Poles

Dear Commissioners:

The Lawrence Historic Resources Commission (HRC) at our meeting on March 26, 2009, approved the installation of Freenet Equipment on specified light poles along Massachusetts Street downtown. The HRC determined that this specific project, as proposed, meets the established standards and guidelines for properties located in a National Register of Historic Places district. Specifically, the HRC found:

With the following conditions, the proposed project does not encroach upon, damage or destroy listed historic properties and their environs in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, Chapter 22 the Historic Resources Code of the City of Lawrence, the standard of evaluation, and the *Downtown Design Guidelines*.

1. This recommendation is given with the understanding that the City Commission must approve any associated permits, licenses or agreements. Approval of this request by staff or the HRC does not guarantee the City Commission will approve the associated permits, licenses or agreements.
2. This approval is only for the ten units and the precise location identified in the map supplied by the applicant.
3. The units should be painted the color of the pole onto which they are attached to make them less noticeable.
4. The units should be located as close as possible to the main vertical pole.
5. The applicant will continue to evaluate new equipment that may be less intrusive into the Downtown Historic District.
6. Any changes to the approved project will be submitted to the Historic Resources Commission prior to the commencement of any related work.

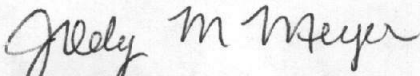
While the HRC concedes that this particular project may not damage or destroy listed historic properties and their environs, we are of the opinion multiple applications of this type of project will have a significant negative impact on the listed historic properties, particularly Lawrence's Downtown Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The protection of



historic resources and their context is a vital element in creating the sense of place that is so important to the vitality of this community and the expansion of our heritage tourism efforts. The National Park Services advises that telecommunication equipment located in historic districts should be concealed so that it is not easily visible to the public. The most appropriate applications are those that are completely hidden in an existing element or disguised as an existing element in the district.

The Lawrence Historic Resources Commission encourages Lawrence Freenet to continue to investigate wireless equipment options that can be concealed from the public view. We appreciate the City Commission's request for the HRC to review this application and advise the Commission as to the appropriateness of the application. New applications should be carefully evaluated for their overall effect on Lawrence's Downtown Historic District and the listed properties in the downtown area.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jody M Meyer".

Jody Meyer, Chair

Lawrence Historic Resources Commission