

April 14, 2023

Jerome D. Schad, Chair Peggy A. LaGree, Vice Chair Michele M. Iannello, Treasurer Board of Commissioners Erie County Water Authority 295 Main Street Room 350 Buffalo, NY 14203

RE:

Termination of wireless facility leases located at:

6007 Lake Avenue, Orchard Park NY (3ERB183B) ("Windom Tank/Tower")

496 Wehrle Tower, Amherst, NY (3ERB101A) ("Wherle Tower")

12 Pleasantview Drive, Lancaster, NY (3ERB021A) ("Pleasantview Tank")

Dear Board,

T-Mobile Northeast LLC, or an affiliate, ("T-Mobile") has provided wireless communications services on the three sites listed above, known as the Windom Tank/Tower, the Wherle Tower, and the Pleasantview Tank, for more than twenty years, pursuant to leases with the Erie County Water Authority ("ECWA"). Since 2021, T-Mobile has been attempting to negotiate reasonable lease terms with ECWA's consultant, Bench Strength Partners ("BCP"). Despite T-Mobile's best efforts, these negotiations with BCP have been fruitless due to BCP's exorbitant demands, and we have received from ECWA a notice to vacate these sites in May 2023, which we presume was issued based on a recommendation from BCP to ECWA.

Given that our discussion on these leases has been through BCP rather than directly with ECWA, we wanted to highlight for you the significance of these three sites to the Erie County community to ensure the ECWA is aware of the potential impact of the loss of these leases. First, given the recent significant increase in water rates and fees passed to ECWA customers, it is important to note that the termination of the leases result in a loss of revenue to the ECWA in excess of \$100,000 annually.

Moreover, T-Mobile's sites provide critical wireless communication services across Erie County to residents, businesses, and visitors. Over the last decade, consumers have become ever more reliant on wireless services, exclusively, and their demands continue to grow. Termination of the leases will have significant impacts on the provision of those wireless services to the county's residents. More importantly, given the proximity of these sites to major highways, loss of these sites could impact public safety, including 911 and other emergency calls. In fact, T-Mobile's network on these towers collectively average 405 calls to 911 per month, or 4,860 calls to 911 annually.

## Average 911 Calls Per Site:

Wherle Tower: 228 calls monthly (2,736 calls annually)
Windom Tank/Tower 48 calls monthly (576 calls annually)
Pleasantview Tank 129 calls monthly (1,548 calls annually)

TOTAL: 405 calls monthly (4,860 annually)

## T Mobile

12920 SE 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, WA 98006 www.t-mobile.com



T-Mobile respectfully requests the ECWA pause its termination of these leases and engage directly with T-Mobile to find a solution that meets both parties' goals, while preserving critical wireless services for residents across Erie County.

Sincerely,

Hans Fiedler

Director, Network Engineering & Operations

cc:

Mark S. Carney, General Counsel, ECWA

John J. DelMonte, Associate Attorney, ECWA

Type text here



## PRIORITY® WAIL

ted delivery date specified for domestic use.

stic shipments include \$100 of insurance (restrictions apply).\*

Tracking® service included for domestic and many international destinations.

d international insurance.\*\*

used internationally, a customs declaration form is required.

does not cover certain items. For details regarding claims exclusions see the Mail Manual at http://pe.usps.com.

rnational Mail Manual at http://pe.usps.com for availability and limitations of coverage.

## T RATE ENVELOPE

TE ANY WEIGHT

CKED = INSURED



2S00001000014

**EP14F July 2022** OD: 12 1/2 x 9 1/2 To schedule free Package Pickup, scan the QR code.



USPS.COM/PICKUP



U.S. POSTAGE

**PRIORITY MAIL®** BOB PHALEN TMOBILE 395 SUMMIT POINT DR

**RDC 23** 

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

HENRIETTA NY 14467-9609

**EXPECTED DELIVERY DAY: 04/17/23** 

C031



**BOARD OF COMMISSONERS ECWA 295 MAIN ST BUFFALO NY 14203-2412** 

**USPS CERTIFIED MAIL®** 



9502 8065 8751 3104 7397 31

