On August 3, 2022, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission (“Commission”) conducted, in the above referenced matter, a public hearing in accordance with the statutes and case law pertaining to quasi-judicial proceedings for the issuance of certificates of appropriateness. During the hearing, Heather Bratland, Historic Resources Officer, presented the staff report, findings, and recommendation. Rusty Carringer, Permitting Specialist, and Jordan Peters, Network Construction Manager, on behalf of Crown Castle, applicant, appeared to present testimony and evidence in support of the application. No one appeared to present testimony and evidence in opposition to the application.

After presentation of all testimony and evidence, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, based upon the evidence presented in the application and during the hearing, finds that the proposed project is incongruous with the character of the West End Historic Overlay District because:

1) The applicant proposes to replace the existing utility pole and streetlight at the corner of Brookstown Avenue and West Fourth Street with a new utility pole and streetlight. The new pole design does not match the existing poles along West Fourth Street between Brookstown Avenue and the edge of the West End Historic Overlay District. The proposed pole has a streetlight supported with a single piece arm, while the existing poles have lights supported with three-part arms. The difference in the pole and streetlight design will create visual discontinuity along West Fourth Street, which will detract from the special character of the West End. (Exterior Lighting, West End Standard 5)

2) Both poles will be capped with concealed poletop antennas. The existing pole on West Fourth Street is 30’ 1” high, and the new pole and antenna will be 37’ 8” high. The existing pole on North Sunset Drive is 33’ high, and the new pole and antenna will be 39’ 5” high. Both poles will include a 5’ x 2’ 4.75” Qwiksite Qube shrouded 4G antenna. On West Fourth Street the bottom of the Qube will be mounted 8’ above the sidewalk; on North Sunset Drive the bottom of the Qube will be mounted 11’ 6” above the sidewalk. The Qube shrouded antennas will be within the sightline of an average pedestrian and visually obtrusive, e.g., Federal Highway Administration standards for pedestrian signal heads require mounting between 7’ and 10’ above the sidewalk to maximize visibility. Technological equipment that is incongruous with the special character of the West End shall be located in areas of low visibility, be screened, or be located so that it is visually unobtrusive. (Accessory Features: Structural and Mechanical Systems, West End Standards 2-4)
Based on the preceding findings, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission hereby denies COA2022-049 for work at the rights-of-way, located at 888 West Fourth Street and 132 North Sunset Drive, within the West End Historic Overlay District.

This the fourth day of August, 2022.

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Mary Catherine Berry, Chair
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission