



DATE: June 7, 2023
INTERPRETATION NO.: CI2023-0004
TITLE: Mobile Cell Sites Permitting Requirements
RELATED DEPT. & DIVISION: Development Services Department
TOPIC: Mobile Cell Sites
DECISION MAKER: Todd Wilcox, Building Official

SUMMARY: Mobile cell sites that comply with the criteria in this interpretation are considered equipment, not structures, and are allowed as a temporary use without a building permit.

CODE SECTIONS: Land Development Code (LDC) – Chapter 25-1 (*General Requirements and Procedures*)

- [§ 25-1-21 \(115\)](#) (*definition of “Structure”*)

Land Development Code (LDC) – Chapter 25-2 (*Zoning*)

- [§ 25-2-921](#) (*Temporary Uses Described*)

CODE INTERPRETATION:

Background

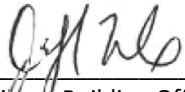
LDC § 25-2-921 (*Temporary Uses Described*) authorizes the building official to permit a wide range of temporary uses. A mobile cell site qualifies as a temporary use and is allowed without a building permit, if it meets the criteria established below.

Interpretation

Consistent with established City regulations and practices, a mobile cell site is allowed without a building permit if:

1. The duration of the installation is less than 180 days;

2. The mobile cell site functions as equipment, rather than an independent structure, which means that it:
 - a. Is self-contained;
 - b. Does not require connection to external power sources; and
 - c. Is placed on trailers licensed by the Austin Transportation Department (ATD);
3. Installation will not require connection to any other public or franchise utilities;
4. All units are licensed by ATD as “equipment” or “trailers”;
5. The applicant provides:
 - a. An emergency response plan, detailing de-activation and relocation procedures to be initiated in preparation of emergency situations; and
 - b. Information regarding liability insurance coverage related to the use of the mobile cell sites. The coverage will meet or exceed the City’s minimum requirements; and
6. The installation complies with other applicable City ordinances.



Todd Wilcox, Building Official