

RESOLUTION No.

Request the federal government to update studies on potential health effects of radio frequency wireless emissions in light of significant increases in wireless use.

WHEREAS, federal law preempts state and local governments, including the City of Portland, from considering health concerns in the regulation and placement of wireless facilities, so long as such facilities otherwise comply with applicable federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has jurisdiction over non-federal wireless facilities, authorizing and licensing all non-federal devices, transmitters and facilities that generate Radio Frequency (RF) radiation; and

WHEREAS, the FCC relies upon federal agencies with health and safety expertise, such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration which have assigned roles in federal law for monitoring and investigating issues related to RF exposure; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accounting Office in 2001 prepared a report of its investigation into safety concerns related to mobile phones, and concluded that further research into wireless technology is needed, recommending the FDA take the lead in monitoring research results; and

WHEREAS, the FCC in 2003 last updated guidelines for human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields from wireless facilities, based primarily on recommendations of other federal agencies after reviews of prior scientific literature related to RF biological effects, primarily from the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, a survey released in May 2009 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that for the first time the number of households in the U.S. with only a cell phone exceeds the number of households in the U.S. with only a landline phone;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Portland City Council requests the FCC to work in cooperation with the FDA and other relevant federal agencies to revisit and update studies on potential health concerns arising from RF wireless emissions in light of the national proliferation of wireless use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council Clerk shall cause a copy of this Resolution to be sent to all members of the FCC, to the FDA Commissioner, and to all members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the Council:
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
May 12, 2009

Gary Blackmer
Auditor of the City of Portland
By

Deputy