



# CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

EST. 1871

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 13, 2021

Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
E-Mail: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

RE: **DOCKET NO. 503** - Arx Wireless Infrastructure, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 43 Osgood Avenue, New Britain, Connecticut.

Dear Members of the Connecticut Siting Council:

I am writing in opposition to the Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need filed by ARX Wireless Infrastructure, LLC in order to construct a cell tower facility on property located at 43 Osgood Avenue in New Britain.

The property at 43 Osgood Avenue is zoned S-3 Single-Family and located in the middle of a residential development. My office has been in contact with many residents living in the Osgood Avenue neighborhood and its surrounding communities and they are strongly opposed to the construction of a cell tower at this location. These residents feel strongly, as do I, that the installation of a cell tower at this location will negatively impact their quality of life. The residents of these single-family communities purchased their homes with the full expectation that they would be able to maintain a residence in an area free from large industrial facilities that are more appropriately located in a business or industrial zone district. There are abundant location options in business or industrial zone districts for this cell tower in the City of New Britain. Instead, ARX has chosen to locate this cell tower at property located in the middle of a *single-family zone district*. It is manifestly unfair for these residents to have to tolerate not only the unsightliness of the large cell tower, but also the disruptive operation of the cell tower facility itself by ARX employees who can be expected to be a regular presence maintaining this site for as long as the proposed facility exists.

In addition to the immediate impact that this cell tower will have on the quality of life of these residents, the properties located in close proximity to this site will certainly experience loss in property value not only due to the unsightliness of the cell tower itself, but also due to the fact that many believe, rightfully or wrongfully, that exposure to cell tower radiofrequency emissions can lead to long-term health effects.

Additionally, the property at 43 Osgood Avenue houses the historic former Israel Putnam Elementary School building and the City views this school building as having a high potential for historic restoration and adaptive re-use. In 2016 the owner of 43 Osgood Avenue applied for and was granted a variance by the City's Zoning Board of Appeals to allow the conversion of the former school building into age-restricted apartment units. Although this project did not materialize, it serves as a good example of the potential this property has for meaningful development that is *consistent* with the overall zoning scheme. It is my belief that construction of a cell tower on this site will effectively preclude any such adaptive re-use from happening in the future, leaving the City with another derelict and underutilized property.

I implore this body to reject this application. Surely ARX can explore other more appropriate sites for an additional cell tower in the City of New Britain other than in the middle of single-family residential zone. I offer whatever assistance I can to help ARX find a more suitable location for this proposed cell tower.

Thank you for your consideration.



Erin E. Stewart,  
Mayor

Cc: Melanie A. Bachman  
melanie.bachman@ct.gov