

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3
4 Docket No. 503

5 **Arx Wireless Infrastructure, LLC application for a**
6 **Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and**
7 **Public Need for the construction, maintenance,**
8 **and operation of a telecommunications facility**
9 **located at 43 Osgood Avenue, New Britain,**
10 **Connecticut.**

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12
13 **VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE**

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16 **Public Comment Session held on Tuesday,**
17 **July 20, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**
18 **via remote access.**

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21 **H e l d B e f o r e:**

22 **EDWARD EDELSON, Presiding Officer**

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24
25 **Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061**

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s:**

2
3 **Council Members:**

4 **ROBERT HANNON**
5 Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes
6 Department of Energy and Environmental
7 Protection

8 **QUAT NGUYEN**
9 Designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick
10 Gillett
11 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

12 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**
13 **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**
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16 **Council Staff:**

17 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**
18 Executive Director and
19 Staff Attorney

20 **MICHAEL PERRONE**
21 Siting Analyst

22 **LISA FONTAINE**
23 Fiscal Administrative Officer

24
25 **For Applicant Arx Wireless Infrastructure,**
 LLC:

COHEN & WOLF, P.C.
 1115 Broad Street
 Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604
 BY: **DAVID A. BALL, ESQ.**
 PHILIP C. PIRES, ESQ.

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s: (Cont'd)**

2
3 **For Intervenor, New Cingular Wireless PCS,**
4 **LLC (AT&T):**
5 **BROWN RUDNICK LLP**
6 **185 Asylum Street**
7 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103**
8 **BY: THOMAS J. REGAN, ESQ.**

9
10 **For Party, City of New Britain:**
11 **OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNSEL**
12 **City of New Britain**
13 **27 West Main Street**
14 **New Britain, Connecticut 06051**
15 **BY: JOSEPH E. SKELLY, JR., ESQ.**

16
17 **Also present:**
18 **DOUGLAS ROBERTS, AECOM**

19 **Zoom Co-host: Aaron Demarest**

20
21 ***(AUDIO INTERRUPTION) - denotes breaks in speech**
22 **due to interruptions in audio or echo.**

23 ****All participants were present via remote access.**

1 MR. EDELSON: Ladies and gentlemen,
2 this remote public hearing is called to order this
3 Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. My name is
4 Ed Edelson. I'm a member and presiding officer of
5 the Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of
6 the Council are Robert Silvestri, Daniel P. Lynch,
7 Jr., and Louanne Cooley.

8 Members of the staff are Melanie
9 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
10 Michael Perrone, siting analyst; and Lisa
11 Fontaine, fiscal administrative officer.

12 Please note there is currently a
13 statewide effort to prevent the spread of the
14 Coronavirus. This is why the Council is holding
15 this remote public hearing, and we ask for your
16 patience. If you haven't done so already, I ask
17 that everyone please mute their computer audio or
18 telephone now.

19 This is a continuation of a remote
20 public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this
21 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
22 available on the Council's Docket No. 503 webpage,
23 along with the record of this matter, the public
24 hearing notice, instructions for public access to
25 this remote public hearing, and the Council's

1 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

2 This hearing is held pursuant to the
3 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
4 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
5 Procedure Act upon an application from Arx
6 Wireless Infrastructure, LLC for a Certificate of
7 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
8 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a
9 telecommunications facility located at 43 Osgood
10 Avenue, New Britain, Connecticut. The application
11 was received by the Council on May 14, 2021.

12 This application is also governed by
13 the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is
14 administered by the Federal Communications
15 Commission. This Act prohibits the Council from
16 considering the health effects of radio frequency
17 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
18 extent the emissions from towers are within the
19 federal acceptable safe limits standard, which
20 standard is also followed by the state Department
21 of Public Health. The Federal Act also prohibits
22 this Council from discriminating between and
23 amongst providers of functionally equivalent
24 services. This means that if one carrier already
25 provides service for an area, other carriers have

1 a right to compete and provide service in the same
2 area.

3 The Council's legal notice of the date
4 and time of this remote public hearing was
5 published in The Hartford Courant on June 9, 2021.
6 Upon this Council's request, the applicant
7 installed a sign in the vicinity of the proposed
8 site so as to inform the public of the name of the
9 applicant, the type of facility, the remote public
10 hearing date, and contact information for the
11 Council, including the website and phone number.

12 This remote public comment session is
13 reserved for the public to make brief statements
14 into the record. These public statements are not
15 subject to questions from the parties or the
16 Council, and members of the public making
17 statements may not ask questions of the parties or
18 the Council. In fairness to everyone who signed
19 up to speak, these public statements will be
20 limited to three minutes and will become part of
21 the record for Council consideration. Please be
22 advised that written comments may be submitted by
23 any person within 30 days of the public hearing.

24 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
25 communication with a member of the Council or a

1 member of the Council staff upon the merits of
2 this application is prohibited by law.

3 I wish to note that parties and
4 intervenors, including their representatives,
5 witnesses and members, are not allowed to
6 participate in the public comment session. I also
7 wish to note for those who are listening and for
8 the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are
9 unable to join us for the remote public comment
10 session, that you or they may send written
11 comments to the Council within 30 days of the date
12 hereof by mail or by email, and such written
13 statements will be given the same weight as if
14 spoken at the remote public comment session.
15 Please be advised that any person may be removed
16 from the remote public comment session at the
17 discretion of the Council.

18 We ask each person making a public
19 statement in this proceeding to confine his or her
20 statements to the subject matter before the
21 Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition so
22 that we may hear all of the concerns you and your
23 neighbors may have. Please be advised that the
24 Council cannot answer questions from the public
25 about the proposal.

1 A verbatim transcript of this remote
2 public hearing will be posted on the Council's
3 Docket No. 503 webpage and deposited at the New
4 Britain City Clerk's Office for the convenience of
5 the public.

6 Please be advised that the Council's
7 project evaluation criteria under the statute does
8 not include consideration of property values.

9 Now, before I call on members of the
10 public to make statements, I request the applicant
11 to make a very brief presentation to the public
12 describing the proposed facility.

13 Mr. Coppins and Mr. Roberts, I believe
14 you're prepared to do that?

15 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, we are. I'd love to
16 do that.

17 MR. EDELSON: I think we're going to
18 put up an exhibit here. There we go.

19 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you very much.
20 Again, my name is Doug Roberts. I'm an architect
21 at AECOM. And our proposal is in this document
22 here. If I could jump to the second page, that
23 would probably be the most helpful one. It's an
24 as-built survey where we can see the school, the
25 existing school structure. And we place the tower

1 in sort of the alcove of the school in the back to
2 limit the base and a lot of the exposure from
3 Goodwin Avenue and Beach Street. The next page
4 will be helpful.

5 This is the site plan. Basically,
6 we're going to be utilizing an existing drive
7 coming in off of Beach Street, and we're traveling
8 about 150 feet along this road. We're going to be
9 replacing it with gravel. It's existing
10 bituminous. It's far beyond its life span. Our
11 equipment is going to be located in a 50 by 50
12 fenced compound within a 75 by 75 lease area.

13 We can jump to C-2. And that shows us
14 the elevation and the equipment. You can see the
15 monopole placed in the center of the compound with
16 AT&T's generator and equipment shelter in the
17 southwest corner allowing for room for not only
18 additional carriers to go on the site but room for
19 any emergency services that maybe the Town of New
20 Britain might have. And on the right side is the
21 north elevation of the tower showing the antennas.
22 The top of the antennas are 104 feet tall off of
23 grade with the centerline of the antennas at 100
24 feet with room for four carriers on this tower.
25 Thank you very much.

1 MR. EDELSON: Just a note on remote
2 public hearings. Remote public hearings are quite
3 different from in-person public hearings. For
4 in-person public hearings, members of the public
5 could sign in, step up to the podium and offer
6 their comments. For remote public hearings, the
7 public is required to sign up to speak in advance
8 in order to provide Council staff with the time
9 necessary to facilitate connection precautions to
10 prevent interruption or in common terms bombings
11 of the proceedings. There are protocols,
12 procedures and consistency measures that are
13 followed as part of the remote public hearing
14 process. Again, written comments may be submitted
15 within 30 days of this public hearing.

16 And we will now call on those who
17 signed up, and we will begin with Senator Rick
18 Lopez. Is Senator Lopez there?

19 SENATOR LOPEZ: Yes, Mr. Edelson.
20 Thank you. For brevity sake -- can you hear me?

21 MR. EDELSON: I can hear you. Thank
22 you.

23 SENATOR LOPEZ: Wonderful. For brevity
24 sake, I'll be speaking on behalf of the New
25 Britain legislative delegation, myself,

1 Representative Tercyak, who I see is on this Zoom,
2 Representatives Bobby Sanchez and Manny Sanchez.

3 This project came to our attention from
4 constituents living in the area concerned about
5 it, and I'm speaking against this project. The
6 reasons for opposition are multi-level. I think
7 they definitely need to be fleshed out and looked
8 into a little bit further by both myself, since it
9 came to me kind of late, and by the city.

10 The location is in a residential
11 neighborhood. For that reason, I'm not exactly
12 sure if that's an appropriate -- not appropriate,
13 but a great use for that building. I understand
14 the building has been vacant for quite some time,
15 but I've envisioned for years a use of that
16 building being other than a cell phone tower.

17 My biggest concerns involve the
18 property was recently cited by the city as being
19 blighted. I would really like to hold off
20 approval on this project until the owners of the
21 property address that issue of the blight and
22 remedy that situation and become a partner with
23 the city and the community in making the property
24 clean and in safe shape.

25 A minor concern I had was, I drive by

1 the property quite often on Osgood Avenue. I
2 don't remember seeing signage on Osgood. I was
3 informed by a neighbor there was one on Beach
4 Street, but the one on Osgood, I don't know if it
5 was just not in a visible spot or I just missed
6 it, but I drive by Osgood quite often and I don't
7 remember seeing it.

8 I've spoken to the Mayor's office.
9 They also are in opposition. I believe the Mayor
10 has submitted testimony in opposition of this
11 project, and I've spoken to her staff who admitted
12 they also have some of the same concerns I have in
13 terms of the property being blighted. And I'd
14 like to see, to remedy that situation, more buy-in
15 from the owners of the property.

16 But in a nutshell that is it. I
17 wouldn't say it's the worst project in the world
18 I've ever seen, but I would like to see a little
19 bit more caution and have the project fleshed out
20 a little bit longer and listen to the concerns of
21 the residents that have been brought up that they
22 think it's not an appropriate use.

23 So I can see Representative Tercyak,
24 you can either nod or give me a thumbs up, but I
25 believe I spoke on his behalf. But that is all.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. EDELSON: Thank you, Senator Lopez.

3 Our next speaker will be Marek Swietek,
4 I hope I pronounced the name correctly, followed
5 by Joyce Adolewski-Hass. So Marek Swietek first.
6 Let's see if we can find him on the screen.

7 You're on mute. If you could start talking that
8 might help, if you can get off mute.

9 (No response.)

10 MR. EDELSON: I don't see anybody
11 stepping up. So maybe if we can move on and we'll
12 come back, if necessary. Our next speaker is
13 Joyce Adolewski-Haas. I hope I pronounced that
14 correctly.

15 JOYCE ADOLEWSKI-HAAS: Hi. Yes, I'm
16 here. This is Joyce Adolewski.

17 MR. EDELSON: Go ahead.

18 MS. ADOLEWSKI-HAAS: Would you like me
19 to present?

20 MR. EDELSON: Yes, please. I'm sorry.

21 MS. ADOLEWSKI-HAAS: I live close to
22 the proposed tower on 43 Osgood Avenue. I'm
23 actually on Oakland Avenue. I also submitted a
24 letter with pictures regarding the area and the
25 placement of the cell phone tower to the siting

1 commission. And then I listened to the
2 evidentiary session this afternoon, and I have
3 many concerns. I really don't want the
4 construction of the 5G tower in my residential
5 area. It's not right as it's going to add to the
6 current blight next to the already condemned
7 school building that has had nothing done with it.

8 I have some concerns over the way Arx
9 notified the public, and I really feel that they
10 hampered the ability for neighbors and taxpayers
11 to be fully informed. I understand that it was
12 posted in the newspaper, but a lot of us don't
13 have the time to read the newspaper, and we rely
14 on the signs in the area. And since the building
15 faces Osgood Avenue, okay, I feel -- and that's a
16 very heavily traveled road -- I think the sign
17 should have been placed there, but instead it was
18 put on Beach Street. It was on the side street.
19 And every single day a large flatbed tow truck
20 parked in front of the sign. Okay. I notified
21 people about that. Also, there weren't a lot of
22 property owners notified in writing, so that was
23 another issue. And I just found out because
24 eventually I did see the sign.

25 Now, my concern is over the blighted

1 building. The owners are being fined daily
2 because the building is unsafe and can collapse.
3 It's been cited according to Code No. 117. It has
4 a roof that's not intact and open to the weather.
5 The interior floor is dilapidated, unstable,
6 because the roof section is missing, okay, so
7 that's a major problem. Now I have concerns that
8 AT&T plans to buy the property but it doesn't have
9 any definite plans as to what they want to do with
10 it, and the tower can go as high as 130 feet. I
11 really got the impression that AT&T was very
12 evasive on quite a few topics when questioned.
13 They answered some, but they omitted others.

14 The owners of a couple of those homes
15 are totally open to the fields close to where the
16 tower is, and they have put up their houses for
17 sale, and I think they're in the process of being
18 sold. There's only a few trees behind the rest of
19 the buildings that are in that area. It's all
20 open to a residential area. I do know about some
21 of the other towers that have been placed at
22 Falcon Field and Holy Cross Church which is very
23 close to this one. And I just, I'm just very
24 worried about this in general.

25 And I also read the Arx report, and

1 there were some inconsistencies in the report
2 especially with Holy Cross Church, and I even
3 called them to question them about that as well.
4 And now it looks like AT&T is not really being
5 committed to making any definitive improvement to
6 the already blighted building. As they not only
7 want to put up a tower, but buy the land and
8 building too. And this wasn't stated in the
9 proposal -- (TIME ELAPSED).

10 MR. EDELSON: Okay. Thank you. Your
11 three minutes is up. And if you would like to
12 provide additional public comment via mail or
13 email, please feel free to do that.

14 Our next scheduled speaker is Brandon
15 Haas followed by George Haas. Brandon? I'll see
16 if you're on. I don't see a Brandon here but that
17 --

18 BRANDON HAAS: That's me.

19 MR. EDELSON: Okay. You've got the
20 stage.

21 MR. HAAS: You know, they really didn't
22 give a lot of notice. I have to echo a lot of
23 what my mom had said. They didn't give a lot of
24 notice that they were going to be putting up the
25 tower. And not only that, but it was also blocked

1 by a tow truck, so no one can really see the sign
2 that was there. So again, it wasn't a high
3 trafficked area.

4 You know, it sounds like people in the
5 area have been asking a lot about this building
6 for a very long time, and they have not taken care
7 of the building. And I'm not sure what really
8 goes into that. But to allow a blighted property
9 to be there and have the people in the community
10 ask, hey, can you please take care of this, you
11 know, and then they come back and they say, oh,
12 we're going to put up a tower in a residential
13 area, you know, it's kind of a slap in the face to
14 the people in the community and it's aggravating.
15 So, but on top of that, you know, I really think
16 that, you know, that's not something that I want
17 to see in this area.

18 MR. EDELSON: Are you finished, sir?

19 MR. HAAS: Yes.

20 MR. EDELSON: Oh, okay. Thank you.

21 Thank you for your comment.

22 So I'll now move to George Haas, if you
23 can make sure you're on mute, and just identify
24 yourself.

25 (AUDIO INTERRUPTION)

1 MR. EDELSON: George, there might be
2 two speakers on.

3 GEORGE HAAS: We're getting that
4 adjusted here. Can you hear me? You got me?

5 MR. EDELSON: That's much better.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. HAAS: Okay, I'm here now. I'm
8 George Haas, and I'd like to -- can you hear me?

9 MR. EDELSON: I can hear you.

10 MR. HAAS: I'd like to speak on the
11 same thing that the building is an old building,
12 over a hundred years old. The building itself is
13 a health problem. On top of that, I've already
14 had cancer twice. I don't need this AT&T, this
15 big tech, and Verizon, and whatever companies
16 you're going to have there, come into my
17 residential area and run my life. I think we have
18 enough problems with this whole country running
19 our life right now, and it's sickening.

20 And this is a health problem. You
21 already have it on Falcon Field, a tower, you have
22 it at Holy Cross Church, a tower. What do you
23 need to do? You don't have to shove this stuff
24 down our throats, okay? Our health department has
25 got to get involved. They've got to stop hiding

1 behind closed doors, or wherever they are, and put
2 a stop to this stuff before it runs our lives,
3 before these guys -- it's all about big money, and
4 we all know it. And they're having a cell tower
5 war throughout our town and other towns. We don't
6 need it. I've got my regular phone here. I can
7 dial 911 all the time. You don't need this stuff.

8 And also, these companies, I've heard
9 people talking about the power is weak, the power
10 is weak. Well, the power is not weak. It's AT&T
11 controlling how many bars you have on your phone.
12 They have control. These people are not stupid.
13 They know what they're doing, and you're taking us
14 down. You've got to put a stop to it. Thank you
15 very much.

16 MR. EDELSON: Okay. Thank you. So
17 next up will be Marek Piechota I think is on the
18 phone and followed by Christina Kargul. So Marek
19 Piechota, I hope I'm saying that close to right.
20 I apologize if I'm not. You can start speaking.
21 That will help us identify where you are, and if
22 not, we can come back.

23 (No response.)

24 MR. EDELSON: Okay. Is Christina
25 Kargul available and ready to speak? Again,

1 please, if you are ready, please take yourself off
2 mute and identify yourself and we can proceed.

3 (No response.)

4 MR. EDELSON: Okay. Then I will move
5 on to Jonathan Johnson.

6 JONATHAN JOHNSON: Hey, how are you?
7 Can you hear me okay?

8 MR. EDELSON: We can. Thank you.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Jonathan
10 Johnson. I live at 133 Highview Avenue, right
11 around the corner from where you're going to put
12 up a giant cell phone antenna. Right there in
13 this residential neighborhood 104 feet into the
14 sky is where you're planning on putting a cell
15 tower right here in this residential neighborhood.
16 This is just houses around here. We live in
17 houses. This is not an industrial zone. This is
18 not a commercial zone. This is a residential
19 neighborhood. You're going to put a 104 foot cell
20 tower into the sky in our backyards. That's what
21 you're doing.

22 I'm going to walk you down the street.
23 There's two houses, and right over here they've
24 got forewarning about this project, and they both
25 tried to sell. This guy over here was under

1 deposit, but I'm sure as soon as that sign went up
2 on the front yard over here of the school that
3 deposit fell through. This is not a
4 commercial/industrial zone. These are people's
5 houses. This is people's lives over here. This
6 is their life savings, their equity. This is not
7 an industrial zone. This is not a commercial
8 zone. There's got to be a hundred other locations
9 in this town where you can put a cell phone tower.
10 You can't tell me that these people, this
11 neighborhood needs a giant cell tower and an AT&T
12 warehouse because of this one school.

13 If I can get down there fast enough,
14 I'll show you. Oh, now there's two trucks in
15 front of the sign. The one sign you put out right
16 there has had this tow truck in front of it every
17 single day for weeks. You guys did the addresses
18 on Osgood. This is Beach. Osgood is down there.
19 Where is the sign on Osgood? It's no where to be
20 found. You're trying to ram this project down our
21 throats in this residential neighborhood in the
22 middle of summer when no one is watching. It's a
23 shame. It's a travesty. You've got to stop this
24 project. It's absolutely ridiculous. These are
25 people's houses. You're going to ruin all of the

1 equity in their houses, all of it. You've got to
2 stop this project. It's insane.

3 So I rise against this project for
4 everybody here who couldn't get notice of this
5 freaking, this last minute hearing. Every single
6 person here would rise up against this if they had
7 any forewarning that you guys were doing this.
8 It's insane. Stop this cell tower. There's a
9 hundred other locations in the city. This is not
10 a commercial zone. This is not an industrial
11 zone. Forget the building is blighted. That's a
12 whole nother issue. That's got to be solved
13 separately. You guys should not be putting a cell
14 tower.

15 Look, there's for sale signs right here
16 because they know these houses are worth zero as
17 soon as that tower goes up. Stop this project.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. EDELSON: Thank you. Next up is
20 Emily Johnson followed by Ryan Colandrea.

21 EMILY JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Emily
22 Johnson, and I am Jonathan's wife. So this is our
23 backyard. I just want to show you it again.
24 Literally, the thing is going to be sticking up
25 right in my backyard, right in my backyard. I

1 come out here with my kids, we come and play, and
2 I'm going to have a giant cell phone tower. I'm
3 going to be able to see it right here. This is
4 ridiculous. This makes me want to move. It's
5 going to ruin the entire neighborhood. There is
6 no reason for it.

7 Like, everyone that comes out here, we
8 come out here, we hang out and stuff. I come out
9 with my 4 year old and my 7 year old, and I'm
10 going to have to have a giant thing sticking up in
11 the yard. It's ridiculous. There's plenty of
12 other spaces in New Britain to put a tower like
13 that. There's absolutely not one single -- I
14 mean, right here, I'll be out here, and there's
15 going to be a giant thing behind my head with my
16 kids running around. There's absolutely no reason
17 why this needs to be here at all.

18 So I just am strongly opposed to this.
19 And like I said, there's plenty of other spaces in
20 New Britain to put a cell phone tower besides in
21 everyone's backyard. You're going to ruin the
22 entire neighborhood. And New Britain, this is a
23 great neighborhood. There's people, they walk
24 their dogs every day and stuff, like it's a
25 friendly neighborhood with a lot of families, and

1 putting this in here is honestly just going to
2 ruin it. And it's like that would be very sad and
3 unfortunate that New Britain is going to do
4 something like that when you're just going to ruin
5 it. It's just going to completely ruin the whole
6 entire neighborhood, and there's plenty of other
7 spaces to put it in besides here.

8 So I suggest that they just find
9 another spot besides in someone's backyard,
10 especially people with kids and stuff. Like,
11 people walk their dogs around this whole
12 neighborhood, and it's very friendly, and you're
13 going to destroy all of that for something that's
14 not even needed. And honestly, it's like that
15 building could be so much, something so much
16 better than just selling out to AT&T for a cell
17 phone tower. So I just strongly oppose it, and I
18 suggest putting it somewhere else in our town.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. EDELSON: Thank you. So next up is
21 Ryan Colandrea followed by Daniel Salerno. So
22 Ryan, if you can identify yourself, make sure
23 you're off mute.

24 RYAN COLANDREA: Hello. Can you hear
25 me?

1 MR. EDELSON: Yes, we can. Thank you.

2 MR. COLANDREA: Hi, I'm Ryan Colandrea.
3 I live over on 54 Beach Street. That's right on
4 the corner of Highview and Beach Street. It was
5 the big white house that you could see from their
6 videos.

7 I just moved here in October. I am a
8 first-time homeowner, so this sort of thing is new
9 to me. But coming from my perspective, I'm not
10 going to come here and say, like I'm not a doctor
11 or a construction worker where I know I can come
12 here with facts. I just, I'm more coming from it
13 from the appropriate use. And coming from
14 Cromwell where I lived growing up, I was looking
15 for a new house, and I ended up buying a
16 multi-family. The reason is, the first time I saw
17 this house there was a bunch of people walking
18 through the neighborhood, and I definitely felt
19 like home here as opposed -- and I echo what
20 everybody else is saying where I think the tower
21 will definitely, it will hurt the value of our
22 houses. I think just going out and seeing that in
23 a residential area is going to really suck. And
24 it's not something that I thought moving in would
25 be even considered.

1 I'm also echoing my tenants. They
2 expressed concerns to me on that, that an area
3 being used for a 110 foot tower. And being a
4 small business owner here, I am worried about
5 future tenants coming in having that when right
6 now it's a very nice residential neighborhood, and
7 I hope to keep it that way. Hopefully, that
8 building could be used and that area could be used
9 for much better things in the future. Thank you.

10 MR. EDELSON: Thank you. So next up is
11 Daniel Salerno followed by Magdalena Hasik.

12 Daniel, if you could make sure you're off mute.

13 DANIEL SALERNO: You can all hear me
14 okay?

15 MR. EDELSON: Yes.

16 MR. SALERNO: Good. Good evening,
17 everyone. Thank you to the Connecticut Siting
18 Council for holding this public hearing and
19 opportunity for all of us. I want to first thank
20 my fellow residents of the City of New Britain who
21 have really, by pictures alone, have given you a
22 taste of what the problem is in this particular
23 area.

24 By the way, I'm an alderman at large in
25 the City of New Britain. I'm the majority leader

1 of the New Britain Common Council. And I can tell
2 you that I can speak for the Council from the
3 standpoint I would expect to be at least the
4 majority, certainly the majority, if not a
5 unanimous vote against this particular proposal.
6 So I think you need to at least register that as
7 being very clear.

8 This, by the way, is not something to
9 those residents that City of New Britain has
10 supported. The Mayor has forwarded you a letter.
11 It's very detailed. It provides some technical
12 aspects of that. So I'd hope that you would read
13 that letter that was dated July 13th and forward
14 it to you via electronic mail to be able to
15 identify.

16 I also want to thank State Senator Rick
17 Lopes and Representative Tercyak for also
18 representing our city in this concern. It is
19 obvious that there is tremendous opposition. I
20 received enumerable emails and phone calls over
21 the last several weeks on this matter and decided
22 I would be sure to be able to come and speak to
23 this organization.

24 There are just so many factors involved
25 in this, in the middle of a residential

1 development, it's redundant to say, but it was
2 obvious just by the pictures, as you see.

3 I heard something about the fact we
4 don't identify, deal with property values, and I
5 wasn't really clear of what that means. Property
6 values are really important to the residents in
7 the City of New Britain. You know, we've seen a
8 rise in property values over the last proposed
9 COVID circumstance, and this is something that
10 would derail that positive aspect that would come
11 about if we had this tower up. The proprietor
12 would end up getting some form of revenue from
13 this, and the proprietor has met the limited
14 amount of blight requirements, by the way. So
15 they have over the course of years. I was
16 instrumental myself in getting those trees torn
17 down and bushes that had overgrown a number of
18 years ago, and lately it's at least remains that
19 the lawn area has been cut back.

20 But to allow a tower at a hundred plus
21 feet to be grazing across this neighborhood is
22 just unconscionable when you really consider what
23 that kind of neighborhood is. And it is a very
24 nice, quiet neighborhood in our community. People
25 have lived there for decades. My own wife's uncle

1 and aunt live around the corner on Highview
2 Avenue, actually, 88 and 89 years old, and don't
3 need that kind of disruption at all from that
4 perspective.

5 This will not attract future
6 developers, and I think that's crucial. And I
7 believe my time is actually up. But I just want
8 to say thank you. Please look at this seriously.
9 The opposition is strong. Thank you.

10 MR. EDELSON: Thank you. So next up is
11 Magdalena Hasik followed by Edyta Bobick.

12 MAGDALENA HASIK: Good evening. My
13 name is Magdalena Hasik. My parents are residents
14 on Richmond Avenue. I actually grew up on
15 Richmond Avenue. That's where my first, my
16 memories of my childhood have brought me to this
17 country actually. My parents have worked really,
18 really hard to live where they live, invested into
19 their home, their livelihood. And to really hear
20 that this huge tower is going to be built on a
21 property that's an eyesore already, not only
22 health sore, but over the years had fire safety
23 problems, asbestos, children coming in and out
24 being unsupervised.

25 The owner has bought the property to

1 invest. He promised the neighborhood residents
2 that he's going to develop the property into
3 apartments, it's going to be something beautiful.
4 Richmond Avenue, the street alone has developed
5 into brand new, spanking brand new homes where
6 people have put their livelihood into. And to
7 hear that another company is coming and they're
8 putting an eyesore, hazardous sore for people,
9 it's heartbreaking. It's really heartbreaking.
10 And we already have a tower that was put on Holy
11 Cross, like we mentioned before, church that's
12 already there.

13 So no, I'm proposing that this does not
14 pass. We are going to fight. We're going to
15 fight against it. We have to protest, call the
16 news, media, whatever, because nothing was spread
17 to the neighborhoods, neighbors. Everything was
18 kind of hush-hush. I don't think a lot of the
19 neighbors had an opportunity to speak or to reach
20 out to the city.

21 The Mayor Erin Stewart is against it.
22 She's with us. She wants New Britain to be an
23 amazing developed city. She's done so much for us
24 that this is not okay. Please don't let this
25 happen. Please help us. And I would really

1 appreciate the Council takes all of our concerns
2 and hears us. And thank you so much for letting
3 me speak today. Thank you so much.

4 MR. EDELSON: Thank you. So next up is
5 Edyta Bobick, I hope I'm saying it close to right,
6 and then followed by Francisco Santiago. So I
7 hope I'm saying the name right. Last name is
8 Bobick. Are they there? Make sure you're unmuted
9 and just identify yourself.

10 (No response.)

11 MR. EDELSON: Okay. We'll come back
12 and see if we can find the people who haven't
13 spoken yet, but we'll move on to Francisco
14 Santiago, councilman from New Britain.

15 FRANCISCO SANTIAGO: Good evening. Can
16 you hear me?

17 MR. EDELSON: Yes, you're on the phone.
18 Yes, now I see you. Thank you.

19 MR. SANTIAGO: Thank you for allowing
20 me to speak. I'm Alderman Francisco Santiago. I
21 represent Ward 5 which is where the tower is being
22 proposed to be put.

23 Prior to me being a councilman, I had a
24 door knock, you know, part of grassrooting and
25 getting to know the neighborhood. And that area

1 is so beautiful. The people in that neighborhood
2 take so good care of their property. It's
3 pristine. If you walk, if you took just a walk
4 down Richmond, Beach, they take pride.

5 And one of the concerns -- well,
6 multiple concerns, but the main one was that
7 building. They were told that it was going to be
8 renovated, apartments, and they opposed it, but
9 again, as redevelopment they decided, you know,
10 that would be the best. And nothing was done.
11 I'm not sure exactly how long the property owners
12 had that property, but the issues were complaints
13 of like with the prior call-ins, you know, kids
14 breaking in, the roof collapsed, you know, the
15 plywoods were taken out, you know, people sleeping
16 inside the building. And then now we want to put
17 a tower. It's a poor excuse for whoever, you
18 know, decided they wanted to put this tower there
19 which was probably more the property owners, it's
20 a poor excuse for them to avoid the blight issues.

21 And to me I definitely oppose it. I've
22 been living in that neighborhood for the past 11,
23 12 years. I'm actually farther down, but I do
24 drive through that Osgood every day, every single
25 day. And I look at the building and I go, wow,

1 this property has so much potential. And then to
2 add to it a tower would definitely make that area
3 an eyesore.

4 And, you know, I talk from the heart, I
5 don't write anything down. If you listen to me at
6 council meetings, I listen to my constituents.
7 They complain and I respond. And this is one of
8 the issues that they are definitely complaining
9 about. They do not want this tower put there.
10 They want the building to either be re-renovated
11 or something done so that it looks nice and
12 presentable.

13 We're working on Osgood, which is down
14 further from there, the park, we're working on
15 areas of development all over that street, and to
16 have a tower there it's redundant. I don't think
17 we should put one there. I don't think that the
18 residents will approve it. Of course, as you see,
19 they're calling in. But I really do appreciate if
20 you vote this proposal down and maybe have some
21 other -- as I was told, the Mayor had other
22 proposals or ideas of where the tower could be
23 put. I'm hoping you take that into consideration.
24 And I yield my time. Thank you.

25 MR. EDELSON: Thank you. All right.

1 So we'll go back to the people who had already
2 signed up or had previously signed up but we
3 didn't find them, we'll give them one more chance.
4 So the first would be Marek Swietek. Is Marek on
5 the call? Make sure you unmute.

6 MAREK SWIETEK: Can you hear me?

7 MR. EDELSON: Yes. Is this Marek?

8 MR. SWIETEK: Yes. Good evening.

9 MR. EDELSON: Okay. Go ahead.

10 MR. SWIETEK: I'm located on Richmond
11 Avenue where the antenna tower was going to go.
12 It's right in my backyard, right next to my kids'
13 playscape.

14 And I've been here for three years.
15 And if I knew that I was going to have an antenna
16 tower in my backyard, every time I go on my porch
17 where my kids play, I wouldn't have bought this
18 house. So I think it's a horrible idea. I oppose
19 it. I want each and every one of you to think
20 when you go in your backyard on your porch and you
21 envision a cell phone tower, would you live there?
22 Think about that. I wonder how many of you own a
23 house and sit on your porch and you look in your
24 backyard and you're going to see a cell phone
25 tower. Don't be selfish, all right. I oppose

1 this. I thank you for hearing me out.

2 MR. EDELSON: Okay. That's it? Thank
3 you.

4 So going back through the list, the
5 next was Marek Piechota. Again, if you're on
6 mute, please unmute yourself so we can hear you.
7 I don't think I see anything.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. EDELSON: How about Christina
10 Kargul? Christina, are you there?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. EDELSON: All right. And I think
13 there was one more. Edyta Bobick, did I get that
14 right, are you there?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. EDELSON: I believe all the people
17 who signed up have had an opportunity to speak.
18 So with that, I just would like to remind you that
19 this is the end of the public hearing portion. If
20 you weren't with us before today, you should know
21 that the Council will be continuing the
22 evidentiary session on Thursday, September 2,
23 2021, at 2 p.m., again via Zoom remote
24 conferencing. A copy of the agenda for the
25 continued remote evidentiary hearing will be

1 available on the Council's Docket No. 503 webpage,
2 along with the record of this matter, the public
3 hearing notice, instructions for public access to
4 the remote evidentiary hearing session, and the
5 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
6 Procedures.

7 Again, I want to thank all those people
8 who participated in tonight's public hearing. And
9 I assure you that the Council members will take
10 your comments into consideration as we continue to
11 deliberate. And with that, I want to wish
12 everyone a safe evening and take good care of
13 yourselves. Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, the above proceedings
15 adjourned at 7:12 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 36 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 of the REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION IN RE:
7 DOCKET NO. 503, ARX WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE, LLC
8 APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
9 COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE
10 CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A
11 TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED AT 43 OSGOOD
12 AVENUE, NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, which was held
13 before EDWARD EDELSON, PRESIDING OFFICER, on July
14 20, 2021.

15
16
17
18 

19 -----
20 Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
21 Court Reporter
22 BCT REPORTING, LLC
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25