

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
3

4
5 Docket No. 509

6 Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless
7 PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate
8 of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
9 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a
10 telecommunications facility located at
11 1837 Ponus Ridge Road, New Canaan, Connecticut.
12

13 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE
14

15 Public Comment Session held on Tuesday,
16 June 28, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
17 via remote access.
18

19
20 H e l d B e f o r e:

21 JOHN MORISSETTE, Presiding Officer
22

23
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 **KENNETH COLLETTE, Designee for Commissioner**
5 **Katie Dykes, Department of Energy and**
6 **Environmental Protection**

7 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**
8 **LOUANNE COOLEY**
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12 **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

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15 **LISA FONTAINE**
16 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

17 **For Applicant, Homeland Towers, LLC and New**
18 **Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T):**

19 **CUDDY & FEDER LLP**
20 **445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor**
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22 **BY: KRISTEN MOTEL, ESQ.**

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24 **Verizon Wireless:**

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

2
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5 **Trustee and Mark Buschmann:**

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9 **BY: DAVID F. SHERWOOD, ESQ.**

10 **Party and CEPA Intervenor, New Canaan**
11 **Neighbors:**

12 **JUSTIN NISHIOKA**
13 **60 Squires Lane**
14 **New Canaan, Connecticut 06840**

15
16 **Also present: ROBERT BURNS, P.E., Project**
17 **Manager, All Points Technology Corporation**
18 **P.C.**

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

20 **Public Speakers:**

21 **FIRST SELECTMAN KEVIN MOYNIHAN**
22 **ALBERT BASSETT**
23 **STUART SAWABINI**
24 **JOHN DiFEDERICO**
25 **MEGAN MORALES**
 AMY KENNEDY
 CAROLYN HALSEY

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

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Good evening, ladies
2 and gentlemen. This remote public hearing is
3 called to order this Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at
4 6:30 p.m. My name is John Morissette, member and
5 presiding officer of the Connecticut Siting
6 Council. Other members of the Council are Kenneth
7 Collette, designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes of
8 the Department of Energy and Environmental
9 Protection, Robert Silvestri, Louanne Cooley and
10 Mark Quinlan. Members of the staff are Melanie
11 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney.
12 Robert Mercier, siting analyst. And Lisa
13 Fontaine, fiscal administrative officer.

14 If you haven't done so already, I ask
15 that everyone please mute their computer audio
16 and/or telephones now.

17 This is a continuation of the remote
18 public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this
19 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
20 available on the Council's Docket No. 509 webpage,
21 along with the record of this matter, the public
22 hearing notice, instructions for public access to
23 this remote public hearing, and the Council's
24 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

25 This hearing is held pursuant to the

1 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
2 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
3 Procedure Act upon an application from Homeland
4 Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
5 doing business as AT&T for a Certificate of
6 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
7 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a
8 telecommunications facility located at 1837 Ponus
9 Ridge Road in New Canaan, Connecticut. This
10 application was received by the Council on April
11 13, 2022.

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 this Council from
16 considering the health effects of radio frequency
17 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
18 extent the emissions from the towers are within
19 the federal acceptable safe limits standard, which
20 standard is also followed by the state Department
21 of Public Health.

22 The Federal Act also prohibits this
23 Council from discriminating between and amongst
24 providers of functionally equivalent services.
25 This means that if one carrier already provides

1 service in an area, other carriers have the right
2 to compete and provide service in the same area.

3 The Council's legal notice of the date
4 and time of this remote public hearing was
5 published in The New Canaan Advertiser on May 19,
6 2022. Upon this Council's request, the applicants
7 erected a sign along Ponus Ridge Road by the
8 existing driveway entrance to the proposed site so
9 as to inform the public of the name of the
10 applicants, the type of facility, the remote
11 public hearing date, and contact information for
12 the Council, including the website and phone
13 number.

14 This remote public comment session is
15 reserved for the public to make brief statements
16 into the record. These public statements are not
17 subject to questions from the parties or the
18 Council, and members of the public making
19 statements may not ask questions of the parties or
20 the Council. Please be advised that written
21 comments may be submitted by any person within 30
22 days of this public hearing.

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

1 this application is prohibited by law.

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

14 Please be advised that any person may be removed
15 from the Zoom remote public comment session at the
16 discretion of the Council.

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

25 A verbatim transcript of this remote

1 public hearing will be posted on the Council's
2 Docket No. 509 webpage and deposited in the New
3 Canaan Town Clerk's Office and Stamford City
4 Clerk's Office for the convenience of the public.

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

9 Before I call on members of the public
10 to make statements, I request the applicants to
11 make a very brief presentation to the public
12 describing the proposed facility. And I believe
13 Mr. Burns is making that presentation.

14 Mr. Burns.

15 MR. BURNS: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr.
16 Morissette. For the record, my name is Robert
17 Burns. I'm a licensed civil engineer in the State
18 of Connecticut working for All Points Technology
19 Corporation.

20 The subject site that we're talking
21 about today is located at 1837 Ponus Ridge Road.
22 It's the north side of Ponus Ridge Road just west
23 of the intersection with Dans Highway. The
24 facility itself is located on the northeast
25 portion of the property. The entrance to the

1 site, vehicular entrance, will be on Ponus Ridge
2 Road via an existing curb cut and then a proposed
3 driveway that will lead to the site. The driveway
4 will be 12 feet wide, approximately 460 feet long.
5 The first 250 feet of it will be paved, and the
6 last 210 of that driveway will be gravel.

7 The proposed electric and telephone
8 services that will feed the site will be installed
9 underground beginning at an existing utility pole
10 on the south side of Ponus Ridge Road and run
11 underground following the route of the driveway to
12 the facility.

13 Can we go to probably the compound
14 plan? One more. Awesome. Thank you.

15 The compound itself is 3,100 square
16 feet. It's irregularly shaped. It's a gravel
17 surface compound. It's surrounded by an 8-foot
18 high chain-link fence with a 12-foot wide access
19 gate on the northern side.

20 This proposed compound has been sized
21 for four carriers, AT&T, Verizon, one future
22 carrier, and area for the municipality.

23 Outside of the fence on the southwest
24 side of the compound is a proposed utility area
25 which will include a utility backboard which will

1 house the proposed electric meters, an electric
2 transformer and a small telephone cabinet. This
3 area will be surrounded by steel bollards for
4 protection.

5 Inside the fence in the northwest
6 corner of the compound is AT&T's ground equipment
7 which will include an 8-foot, 8-inch by 10-foot,
8 6-inch concrete pad with a WIC cabinet, which is a
9 walk-in cabinet, and a 9-foot by 7-foot concrete
10 pad with a 15-kW propane fired generator. There
11 will also be an area of the compound for propane
12 tanks. The plan is for a 10-foot by
13 28-and-a-half-foot concrete pad with space for
14 four 500-gallon propane tanks spaced 5 feet apart.

15 Within the compound is a 110-foot high
16 monopine with top of branches at 115 and a
17 municipal antenna which will reach a height of
18 125. The town has plans to install a whip antenna
19 at the top and two future microwave dishes, small
20 dishes. In addition, they will be providing a
21 whip antenna at the 60-foot level.

22 AT&T's plan is to install six panel
23 antennas, nine remote radio heads, and three surge
24 arrestors which will be mounted on T-arms within
25 the branches of the monopine, and the centerline

1 of those antennas will be at 106.

2 The tower will be designed for three
3 additional carriers at 10-foot increments below
4 AT&T with Verizon being at 96 and then two other
5 future carriers at 86 and 76.

6 In addition, there will be 8 to 10-foot
7 tall plantings planted on the northeast and
8 southeast side of the proposed compound for
9 screening. And that's the site. Thank you.

10 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Burns.
11 Just a note on remote public hearings before we
12 begin. Remote public hearings are quite different
13 from in-person public hearings. For in-person
14 hearings members of the public could sign in, step
15 up to the podium and offer their comments. For
16 remote public hearings, the public is required to
17 sign up to speak well in advance in order to
18 provide Council staff with the time necessary to
19 facilitate connection precautions and prevent
20 interruption, or in common terms, bombing of the
21 proceedings. There are protocols, procedures and
22 consistency measures that are followed as part of
23 the remote public hearing process.

24 As a reminder, written comments may be
25 submitted within 30 days of this public hearing.

1 We will now call on First Selectman
2 Kevin Moynihan to make a public statement. First
3 Selectman.

4 FIRST SELECTMAN MOYNIHAN: Good
5 evening, Council members and staff. Thank you for
6 this opportunity to testify in support of this
7 tower proposal. I am going to have three of my
8 first responders follow me. I don't know if
9 they're going to follow me immediately, but Stuart
10 Sawabini, former chairman of our police commission
11 and head of our CERT operation; my fire chief,
12 Albert Bassett; and my deputy police chief, John
13 DiFederico.

14 The town's interest in supporting this
15 location goes back to the need for public safety,
16 both for our first responders and for our
17 residents. About four or five years ago we spent
18 about 2 and a half million dollars upgrading our
19 public safety radio from analog to digital. And
20 the northwest corner of town has always been a
21 problem for us because a policeman could step out
22 of his vehicle, his vehicle may have radio
23 connection, but he steps out and his hand-held
24 doesn't work. So we've had many instances over
25 the years, in the past ten years or so, where

1 first responders have been in dead spots which is
2 a very dangerous situation for any first responder
3 whether it's a fireman or a policeman or
4 ambulance.

5 So we did work on trying to get a
6 public safety 80-foot antenna built on Aquarion
7 Water property on the Stamford line just below the
8 reservoir. The Stamford P&Z commission turned
9 that down. That was like four or five years ago.
10 So then we started looking at locations, and as
11 you heard earlier in the evidentiary hearing
12 today, we had a resident who was willing to put
13 antennas on his barn on Oenoke Ridge, upper Oenoke
14 Ridge, and that has provided a temporary public
15 safety radio location for our first responders.
16 But we need a permanent location, so we started
17 seeking out a location. We're working with
18 Homeland Towers.

19 Now, Homeland Towers was selected by
20 the town in 2016 to be our partner to solve our
21 cell service problem. I would emphasize, first of
22 all, New Canaan is a town of 21,000 residents. I
23 often tell my residents, you know, believe it or
24 not, New Canaan land wise is as big as the Island
25 of Manhattan. We are 22.5 square miles; Manhattan

1 is 22.8 square miles. Hard to believe. Cell
2 signals don't travel more than about a mile and a
3 half from any particular macro site, maybe 2
4 miles.

5 And we only have four, now five, macro
6 site locations in New Canaan within our
7 boundaries. We have some antennas in surrounding
8 towns like Pound Ridge and the borders of
9 Stamford, but they don't give us much service in
10 New Canaan. These towers that we've been doing in
11 the past few years are giving service to our
12 neighboring towns, Stamford, Norwalk, Darien.

13 So one, we need to solve this problem
14 of a permanent location for our public safety
15 radio antennas, and as you heard earlier today,
16 this will give us that permanent location.

17 Secondly, cell service today is a
18 matter of public safety. We've had residents have
19 car accidents, heart attacks and other things. 70
20 percent of 911 calls today are made by cell phone.
21 If you are outdoors in several parts of town and
22 you have to make an emergency 911 call and you
23 can't get reception, that's a matter of life and
24 death in many cases.

25 So I'm very pleased that AT&T stepped

1 forward. We were prepared to bring this tower to
2 to the Siting Council as just a public safety
3 tower, if necessary, but when AT&T agreed to push
4 forward this as a cell tower as well, AT&T has
5 been a leader in the past decade bringing cell
6 service at the country club tower, the Silver Hill
7 Hospital tower, the armory site, which is on the
8 border of New Canaan and Exit 38 of the Merritt
9 Parkway, and most recently the Soundview Lane
10 tower. The town has done its own studies about
11 the need for cell service improvement, and it's
12 been documented that this northwest part of town
13 is desperately in need of cell service.

14 And finally I would say that, again,
15 public safety radio is critical for our first
16 responders, and cell service is critically
17 important not only for our first responders but
18 also for our residents. So with that, I would
19 like, if you want to lead on to our first
20 responders, they are available.

21 MR. MORISSETTE: Very good.

22 FIRST SELECTMAN MOYNIHAN: Thank you.

23 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, First
24 Selectman Moynihan. We'll now continue with a
25 public comment by Albert Bassett, the fire chief,

1 followed by Stuart Sawabini, the New Canaan
2 Community Emergency Response Team executive
3 director.

4 Albert Bassett, please.

5 MR. BASSETT: Thank you, sir. And
6 thanks, everyone, for joining us tonight. I echo
7 the First Selectman's concerns about the need for
8 the cell tower, so in support of it. We have
9 numerous community members that tell us the
10 stories of not being able to call 911, leaving
11 their residence and driving away from their
12 residence to get cell signals, because many of the
13 residents do not have landlines so they don't have
14 cell service. And often in severe weather events
15 if the wires are down, cell service still works so
16 we still have that connection with the community
17 so they can call 911. And we also can use our
18 reverse 911 system, our Everbridge system, to get
19 emergency messages out to their cell phones. So
20 the need for signal for the community is very
21 important.

22 And echoing the First Selectman's
23 thoughts on the radios, we do lose radio signal at
24 times, and the benefit of the whip antenna to
25 assist us in radio communications is definitely a

1 help for our operations.

2 Looking at the cell coverage in
3 general, today's first responders, most of our --
4 many of our communications are cellular driven.
5 Our air time is very limited. There's now a wide
6 bandwidth of people being able to talk at the same
7 time. So we're using cell service within our
8 apparatus, both police, fire, EMS and just in New
9 Canaan and also our surrounding towns that
10 transmits messages to our apparatus with pertinent
11 information, whether that's access codes to
12 people's properties. We also get secure medical
13 information over our CAD system, which is
14 cellular, that many times we can't put that
15 information over the air because those are open
16 lines and anyone can listen to them. So we do
17 have a security issue in that. And the cell
18 service definitely helps us with that security.

19 Our preplanned information is in there
20 and our water supply issue is also in there that's
21 maintained basically on a daily basis on that
22 cellular data so we have access to them and also
23 our partnering agencies both across state lines
24 and town lines within the State of Connecticut.
25 So that cell service is going to help all of them

1 responding to the houses in our community.

2 So the cross-discipline and
3 cross-agency communication is the last thing I'd
4 like to talk about. We don't have the same radio
5 frequencies for different reasons in police, fire,
6 EMS and within our fire agencies across borders.
7 So that CAD system, we could talk to each other
8 through cellular much easier using that.

9 So again, support of the cell phone
10 tower on Ponus Ridge for our communication needs
11 to respond to our community and also for our
12 community to reach out to us in the event of an
13 emergency and have less worry that they won't be
14 able to get somebody on other side of a cell
15 phone. Thank you.

16 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Fire Chief
17 Bassett. Thanks for coming out this evening. We
18 will now continue with Stuart Sawabini, the New
19 Canaan Community Emergency Response Team executive
20 director.

21 MR. SAWABINI: Thank you, and good
22 evening to the Council. It's "Sawabini," but
23 that's fine.

24 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Sorry
25 about that.

1 MR. SAWABINI: I don't want to repeat
2 much of what everybody else has said. But
3 briefly, I served as a police commissioner for
4 about 15 years in the Town of New Canaan. I am a
5 New Canaan resident.

6 In 2014 following a number of major
7 storms where the town lost its public safety radio
8 service, we began to evaluate our existing system
9 to see what could be done and do whatever we could
10 to harden the infrastructure. What became
11 apparent, of course, was the need to upgrade the
12 whole system, and in particular, find a solution
13 for the northwest area of town. We were
14 extraordinarily fortunate to identify a resident
15 who was willing to help, and as a temporary
16 solution we actually ended up mounting an antenna
17 on the peak of their barn. And this did solve the
18 problem, however, this was only temporary. The
19 resident did give us some time to find a permanent
20 solution.

21 And I think this evening we're all
22 quite convinced that the 1837 Ponus Ridge location
23 would be the permanent solution. We've run
24 propagation studies, and this location would meet
25 our needs in a terrific way. It is essential from

1 our perspective that this project be allowed to go
2 forward not only for the sake of all the first
3 responders in town, including the New Canaan
4 Community Emergency Response Team, but also for
5 the residents. After all, our first responders
6 are, in fact, serving residents. And not only is
7 this vital for the first responders' ability to
8 respond to residents, but it's also critical for
9 our residents' ability to dial 911.

10 As the First Selectman mentioned, we've
11 had a number of instances where residents simply
12 can't dial 911 because there's no cell service.
13 So on behalf of the New Canaan Community Emergency
14 Response Team, we would thoroughly embrace,
15 endorse and encourage approval of this location
16 for a cell tower. Thank you.

17 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you,
18 Mr. Sawabini.

19 We'll now call upon John DiFederico,
20 the deputy chief of police.

21 MR. DiFEDERICO: Yes. Good evening,
22 everyone. Thank you for having me. Again, I'd
23 like to echo what Chief Bassett and Stuart have
24 said about the vital need for a tower in this
25 area. Stuart and I go back many years. And

1 improving our radio system in that area of town,
2 and it's been very, very deficient for a number of
3 years. And it's very difficult to have officers
4 out in the field in that area that can't
5 communicate with headquarters either by a two-way
6 radio or a cell phone. With a digital system it
7 either works or it doesn't work. It's not like an
8 analog system. And our radio system is digital
9 and either that connection goes through or it's
10 just garbled and it doesn't communicate and
11 there's no communication.

12 So that's a very frightening place to
13 be for our officers when they are cut off from
14 communication. And the northwest section of town
15 has historically been very undercovered.
16 Fortunately, like Stuart said, we found a private
17 resident that allowed us to put an antenna. We
18 knew that was a temporary fix. The property has
19 since sold. The new owner was kind enough to
20 allow us to continue and maintain that antenna,
21 but how long that will last we don't know. So
22 it's vital for us to have solid, long-term radio
23 communications for our officers in that area.

24 Secondly, as Stuart and Chief Bassett
25 have said, it's important for the residents to be

1 able to communicate with us, call 911 in
2 emergencies. And also a key feature that's new to
3 us is texting to 911. When people are in an
4 emergency situation they have the ability to text
5 to 911 now and we can communicate via text. So if
6 you can imagine a situation where someone is in a
7 violent situation and they're hiding in a closet
8 somewhere and there's a violent intruder in the
9 house, they can then text to 911 rather than
10 actually speaking and giving up their location.
11 So that's a vital means of communication that's
12 dependent on cellular service.

13 And, you know, finally it's also an
14 important link for us in the field where our
15 mobile data terminals connect by cellular so we
16 have an ability to connect our computers in the
17 cars to the cellular network and communicate via
18 that way. And also to communicate in, as Chief
19 Bassett just said, sensitive information that
20 can't be broadcast over a two-way radio system.

21 Two years ago we had a situation in
22 town where there was a horrible accident where a
23 mother had hit a young child in their driveway,
24 and it was in an area of town that was not covered
25 by cellular service. So you can imagine the

1 chaotic scene where we were there and were trying
2 to communicate with other responders and family
3 members to tell them where to go and how to
4 respond to the hospital and what hospital to go
5 to, all those important communication messages
6 that are not appropriate for a two-way radio, but
7 we couldn't do it from the scene. We would have
8 to drive to another location in town to deliver
9 those messages. And it's incredibly frustrating
10 and time consuming when minutes matter.

11 So for that reason, for those reasons
12 the New Canaan Police Department and all the
13 emergency responders are very much in favor of
14 this cellular tower. Thank you.

15 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Deputy
16 Chief, and thanks for coming out this evening.
17 We'll now continue with Megan Morales.

18 Megan.

19 MS. MORALES: Good evening, my name is
20 Megan Morales. I'm a homeowner on Frogtown Road
21 in New Canaan. Hard to follow all these folks who
22 are citing really sad, awful accidents that have
23 happened in town. I'm like the lone dissenting
24 voice at this point. I do oppose the proposed
25 monopine cell phone tower in the residential

1 neighborhood of 1837 Ponus Ridge Road. I feel
2 these decisions favor financial gains of the
3 individual property owner and the town over the
4 will and best interests of our larger community.
5 My neighbors can sign on next for their monthly
6 income from this tower.

7 I emailed my testimony yesterday, but I
8 feel these towers do not belong, again, in the
9 heart of residential neighborhoods. I absolutely
10 positively recognize the need for better cell
11 coverage for the safety of our residents; however,
12 I urge the Council to put the interests of the
13 citizens of New Canaan ahead of the financial
14 desires of town officials and the individual
15 philanthropic investor of 1837 Ponus Ridge Road,
16 whoever that may be. Every single one of these
17 proposals pits neighbor against neighbor making
18 for extremely unpleasant and expensive
19 interactions where individual homeowners are
20 having to hire lawyers to fight the tower in their
21 neighbors' backyard. It's always a fight of some
22 sort, and I feel very strongly that there has to
23 be a better solution out there.

24 There are a lot of extremely
25 intelligent people in this town willing to make

1 this work. We just have to put our heads
2 together. Thank you very much for your time.

3 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Ms.
4 Morales. We'll now continue with Amy Kennedy,
5 captain, New Canaan EMS.

6 Amy Kennedy, please.

7 MS. KENNEDY: Hi, I'm Amy Kennedy. I
8 am the captain of New Canaan EMS. And while I
9 appreciate Megan's statements, as a more than 40
10 year resident of New Canaan who has been serving
11 with the ambulance corps for the better part of
12 the last 30 years, I can honestly say that we have
13 a severe deficiency in the northwest corner of
14 town.

15 While John DiFederico, Stuart Sawabini
16 and Albe Bassett all spoke eloquently about our
17 need as first responders and citizens who are
18 assisting the town, I would also like to speak on
19 behalf of the patients who I'm transporting in the
20 back of the ambulance. When someone is in
21 critical condition and I need to convey
22 information directly to the hospital, I am at a
23 loss for that ability due to the inefficiency of
24 our system to communicate information to the
25 hospital. I need to sometimes call a trauma

1 alert, and if I'm delayed in that, it can be truly
2 a matter of life and death. I've been on many,
3 many calls where we have had no communication for
4 several miles until I get onto a major route
5 closer to town and better cell reception and
6 transmission. And I really think that it behooves
7 the town to take care of all areas regardless of
8 the, quote, financial gain that Megan just cited.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Ms.
11 Kennedy. We will now call on Carolyn Halsey.
12 Carolyn.

13 MS. HALSEY: Hi, can you hear me?

14 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, I can. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. HALSEY: Yes. Thank you for
17 hearing me. I have a little statement, a short
18 statement, then I have some other comments. I'm a
19 resident of Dans Highway for, I don't know,
20 probably 45 years. And I'm categorically opposed
21 to the cell tower. I have EMF and radio wave
22 frequency sensitivities which caused me to have --
23 I hired a building biologist, which you guys may
24 not even know is a profession that exists, to
25 health proof my home about four years ago so that

1 I could not feel the deleterious effects of
2 technology frequencies of various kinds, computer,
3 phone, Wi-Fi, TV, dirty electricity, et cetera.

4 That helped me feel better, but nothing
5 will protect me from a cell tower short of the
6 only remedies I know are short of extreme measures
7 like putting up metal curtains on windows that
8 have to be closed at all times, painting my house
9 with metal paint, and never venturing out of my
10 house without wearing clothing woven from metal
11 and with head coverings of the same. It's kind of
12 like being in a metal prison. That's not a life.
13 As I said, that's being incarcerated.

14 The health issues around cell towers
15 are monumental, including cancer clusters near
16 cell towers, birth defects, degenerative diseases
17 of many kinds, diabetes 2, Alzheimer's, dementia,
18 just to name a few. And I wanted to say does New
19 Canaan and Connecticut want to open themselves to
20 class action lawsuits based on forced high-tech
21 illness and death in its population? That's a
22 question that you don't have to answer.

23 In addition, a recent Johns Hopkins
24 study says that after studying cell tower
25 radiation effects on animals, every group was

1 impacted negatively, especially birds and insects,
2 including bees. If the bees go, we go. I hope
3 some of you understand that connection. If we
4 adversely impact our native bee population, then
5 the trees do not get pollinated, therefore no more
6 trees, no more flowers, no more food, no more
7 humans eventually. Many trees are dying. Have
8 you noticed? I have a heavily wooded property,
9 and I have lost so many trees in the last, you
10 know, five to eight to nine, ten years that I
11 never lost before in all the time I was here.

12 Lastly, I wanted to say that the
13 Stamford Reservoir is home to many species of
14 wildlife, including bald eagles and minks, to name
15 a few of the rarest examples. They need
16 protection. We are so lucky to have them. Let's
17 not destroy what cannot be replaced which is life
18 itself.

19 Please consider my comments which are
20 heartfelt. I feel like I am writing this to save
21 my life and so much more. So that's just sort of
22 my overall comment. And I guess my two principal
23 concerns are health and the environment, both of
24 which, you know, I've spent a lot of my life
25 working on my own health, and as such, I do not

1 carry a cell phone, okay. I have a landline.

2 And I wanted to say I do not think the
3 need that is being addressed here, the need for
4 cell towers to address these emergencies, I don't
5 think it's completely real. I've lived here for
6 so long. You know, what happened before cell
7 towers? What happened before cell phones? You
8 know, we seem to manage. And I have a landline
9 and my husband has a cell phone, but I would say
10 that we, you know, when we are around here in our
11 home or driving up in this part of the city, we're
12 never more -- if we hit a little dead zone it's a
13 few seconds and then it comes back. And I think
14 the vast majority of people up here, I heard, have
15 landlines.

16 So I think there's no real need. I
17 think we have to think logically. I think you
18 have to weigh benefits versus, you know, downside.
19 I think the health issues are tremendous, and I
20 don't mean just my own. But I think probably you
21 guys know that there are many schools across the
22 country that have had to remove cell towers
23 because of cancer clusters. And there was one,
24 the most recent one, I guess, was in Ripon,
25 California. And they had four children and three

1 teachers with cancer. And one of those children,
2 I'm not sure now, is battling that cancer again.
3 I don't know if he's going to make it. But Sprint
4 removed that tower.

5 Many years ago there was another school
6 in California. But there are just many examples
7 across the country. I have some of them here,
8 Oregon schools remove cell towers from their
9 property due to potential health risks. I
10 mentioned the California one. The San Marino
11 schools want to remove towers. Actually, Los
12 Angeles, which I think Los Angeles almost never
13 does anything right, their united, unified school
14 system in Los Angeles has outlawed any cell towers
15 on school property or within so many feet of their
16 property which is a progressive development.

17 In 2018 in Idaho there were ten kids
18 and nine adults within two blocks of a cell tower
19 at a school and they had different cancers ranging
20 from blood cancer, brain cancer, breast cancer,
21 eye cancer. A German study said that people who
22 live near these towers within 1,300 feet have
23 three times the number of cancers. So I'm just
24 mentioning a few of these. If you went and
25 researched, you could find many, many examples.

1 But how can we take the risk? And I'm not saying
2 about schools because I think it should only be
3 that schools shouldn't have them.

4 Also, the International Federation of
5 Firefighters, they are opposed to cell towers.
6 And in 2004 they were able, when California was
7 putting in a lot of small cell towers all over,
8 they were able to carve themselves out of the law
9 because they had found in a study that
10 firefighters with towers on their station had
11 brain deficiencies, they developed brain
12 deficiencies, so they were allowed to be carved
13 out.

14 I just think, I don't think it's just
15 children. I think people of any way, shape, form,
16 variety should have the right to have a healthy
17 life and a life that does not, you know, in a
18 polluted environment. And, you know, I just feel
19 that we, you know, children are in school many
20 hours, but we live in our homes, we sleep here.
21 We spend most of our hours probably in our home,
22 and so therefore we are at risk. You can turn a
23 cell phone off. You can't turn a cell tower off,
24 you know, 24/7/365.

25 And one of the things I also noticed is

1 that the insurance industry has come out and said
2 that these cell towers' radiation and stuff is
3 very high risk, and they are warning, you know,
4 people to keep them away from, you know, the
5 population because there's going to be all these
6 lawsuits. And actually, I read an article where
7 Verizon, AT&T and a couple of these other
8 carriers, they warned their shareholders that, you
9 know, that they could be suffering lawsuits
10 because they know they're doing something
11 dangerous. You don't worry about lawsuits if
12 you're not doing anything wrong. But there was a
13 quote, I think it was from Verizon, where it said
14 to their shareholders we have to contend with the
15 fact that we have to spend a lot of money on
16 lawyers and we will probably have large payouts.
17 They're going to have large payouts because
18 they're going to lose lawsuits because it's
19 self-evident what's happening.

20 MR. MORISSETTE: Very good. Thank you
21 so much for coming out this evening.

22 MS. HALSEY: Okay.

23 MR. MORISSETTE: We appreciate your
24 time that you've put forth and your comments this
25 evening. I'd like to thank everybody for coming

1 out this evening and providing your comments.

2 At this point, the Council announces
3 that it will continue the evidentiary session of
4 this public hearing on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at
5 2 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing. A copy of
6 the agenda for the continued remote evidentiary
7 hearing session will be available on the Council's
8 Docket No. 509 webpage, along with the record of
9 this matter, the public hearing notice,
10 instructions for access to the remote public
11 evidentiary hearing session, and the Council's
12 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

13 Please note that anyone who has not
14 become a party or intervenor, but who desires to
15 make his or her views known to the Council, may
16 file written statements with the Council until the
17 public comment record is closed.

18 Copies of the transcript of this
19 hearing will be filed at the Town Clerk's Office
20 in New Canaan and the City Clerk's Office in
21 Stamford for the convenience of the public.

22 I hereby declare this hearing
23 adjourned. And thank you, everyone, for coming
24 out this evening and providing us with your
25 comments and participating. Thank you, everyone.

1 **Have a good evening.**

2 **(Whereupon, the above proceedings**
3 **adjourned at 7:11 p.m.)**

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1 CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

2
3
4 I hereby certify that the foregoing 34 pages
5 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
6 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
7 before the CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL of the
8 REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION IN RE: DOCKET NO.
9 509, HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC AND NEW CINGULAR
10 WIRELESS PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T APPLICATION FOR A
11 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
12 PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND
13 OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED
14 AT 1837 PONUS RIDGE ROAD, NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT,
15 which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, PRESIDING
16 OFFICER, on June 28, 2022.

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Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
Court Reporter
Notary Public
My commission expires:
May 31, 2023