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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 548

Homeland Towers, LLC, and Celco Partnership d/b/a
Verizon Wireless Application for a Certificate of
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the
Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a
Telecommunications Facility and Associated Equipment
Located at 38 and 42A Hidden Brook Drive,
Brookfield, Connecticut.

Zoom Remote Public Hearing (Teleconference),
on Thursday, April 9, 2026, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

JOHN MORISSETTE, THE VICE CHAIR

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

2 **Councilmembers:**

3 **JOHN MORISSETTE (Vice Chair)**

4

5 **BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI ,**

6 **DEEP Designee**

7

8 **QUAT NGUYEN**

9 **PURA Designee**

10

11 **CHANCE CARTER**

12 **KHRISTINE HALL**

13 **DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS**

14 **BILL SYME**

15 **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**

16

17 **Council Staff:**

18 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,**

19 **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

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21 **MICHAEL PERRONE ,**

22 **Siting Analyst**

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24 **LISA FONTAINE**

25 **Administrative Support**

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A p p e a r a n c e s : (c o n t ' d)
F o r H O M E L A N D T O W E R S (A p p l i c a n t) :
R A Y V E R G A T I ,
R e g i o n a l M a n a g e r

(Begin: 6:30 p.m.)

1
2
3 THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

4 This hearing is called to order this Thursday,
5 April 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

6 My name is John Morissette, Vice Chair of the
7 Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the
8 Council are Khristine Hall; Chance Carter;
9 Dr. Scott Williams; Bill Syme; Daniel P. Lynch,
10 Jr.; Brian Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner
11 Katie Dykes of the Department of Energy and
12 Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee
13 for Chairman Thomas Wiehl of the Public Utilities
14 Regulatory Authority.

15 Members of the staff are Executive Director
16 Melanie Bachman, Siting Analyst Michael Perrone,
17 and Administrative Support Lisa Fontaine.

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

21 This is a continuation of the public hearing
22 that began at 2 p.m. this afternoon. Copies of
23 the prepared agenda are available on the Council's
24 website, along with a record of this matter, the
25 public hearing notice, instructions for public

1 access to this public hearing, and the Council's
2 citizens guide to the Siting Council's procedures.

3 This hearing is held pursuant to the
4 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
5 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
6 Procedure Act upon an application from Homeland
7 Towers, LLC, and Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon
8 Wireless, for a certificate of environmental
9 compatibility and public need for the
10 construction, maintenance, and operation of a
11 telecommunications facility and associated
12 equipment located at 38 and 42A Hidden Brook Drive
13 in Brookfield, Connecticut. This application was
14 received by the Council on December 23, 2025.

15 This application is also governed by the
16 Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is
17 administered by the Federal Communications
18 Commission. This act prohibits this Council from
19 considering the health effects of radiofrequency
20 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
21 extent that the emissions from the towers are
22 within the federal acceptable safe limit
23 standards, which standard is also followed by the
24 State Department of Public Health.

25 The federal act also prohibits this Council

1 from discriminating between and amongst providers
2 of functionally equivalent equipment services.
3 This means that if one carrier already provides
4 service to the area, other carriers have the right
5 to compete and provide service to the same area.

6 The Council's legal notice of the date and
7 time of this public hearing was published in the
8 News Times on January 27, 2026.

9 Upon this Council's request, the Applicants
10 erected a sign in the vicinity of the proposed
11 site so as to inform the public of the name of the
12 Applicant, the type of facility, the public
13 hearing date, and contact information for the
14 Council, including the website and phone number.

15 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
16 communication with a member of the Council or a
17 member of the Council's staff upon the merits of
18 this application is prohibited by law.

19 The public comment session is reserved for
20 members of the public who signed up to make brief
21 statements and these limited appearance statements
22 are not subject to questions from the parties or
23 the Council, and members of the public making
24 statements may not ask questions of the parties or
25 the Council.

1 In accordance with the public hearing notice,
2 and in fairness to everyone who signed up to
3 speak, these public statements will be limited to
4 three minutes. Please be advised that written
5 comments may be submitted by any person within 30
6 days of this public hearing.

7 I wish to note that parties and interveners,
8 including their representatives, witnesses, and
9 members are not allowed to participate in the
10 public comment session. I also wish to note for
11 those who are listening and for the benefit of
12 your friends and neighbors who are unable to join
13 us for the public comment session, that you or
14 they may send written statements to the Council
15 within 30 days of the date hereof by mail or by
16 e-mail.

17 Please be advised that any person may be
18 removed from the public comment session at the
19 discretion of the Council.

20 We ask each person making a limited
21 appearance statement in the proceedings to confine
22 his or her statements to the subject matter before
23 the Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition
24 so that we may hear all of your concerns you and
25 your neighbors may have. Please be advised that

1 the Council cannot answer questions from the
2 public about the proposal.

3 A verbatim transcript will be made of this
4 hearing and will be deposited at the Brookfield
5 Town Clerk's office for the convenience of the
6 public.

7 At this time I request the Applicant to make
8 a brief presentation to the public describing the
9 proposed facility. I understand that Ray Vergati
10 will be making that presentation.

11 Mr. Vergati, good evening.

12 RAY VERGATI: Good evening Vice Chair Morissette.

13 Thank you for the introduction.

14 Good evening, Councilmembers, staff,
15 Brookfield residents, First Selectman Dunn.

16 For the record, my name is Ray Vergati. I'm
17 the Regional Manager for Homeland Towers and I
18 will make a brief presentation of the site plan
19 for this particular project which is involving a
20 new tower.

21 Up on the screen before you, you see a site
22 plan labeled SP-1 in the bottom right, and what
23 this particularly shows is the project is proposed
24 to have a 175-foot monopole.

25 Access from the Hidden Brook Drive would come

1 in on parcel 38 which is in the upper left-hand
2 corner of the screen. That parcel is roughly 2.2
3 acres in size. The road itself will traverse
4 towards the parcel which is labeled as 42A Hidden
5 Brook, which is roughly a ten-acre parcel.

6 That road that you see traveling from Hidden
7 Brook to the south is a proposed gravel road. It
8 is twelve-foot wide. Utilities are planned to be
9 underground and trenched along that road. That
10 road length is approximately 700 feet and will go
11 all the way to the tower compound which is in the
12 bottom kind of center of this particular SP-1
13 sheet.

14 The compound itself is a fenced-in compound.
15 The fence is eight feet in height. It's a
16 chain-link fence with privacy slats. The compound
17 size is 50 by 60, so we're talking 3,000 square
18 feet.

19 This project in conjunction with Verizon
20 involves 37 trees to be removed for the project.

21 Can we go to the next sheet?

22 The next sheet on the bottom right is labeled
23 A-1, and it shows a monopole profile on the
24 right-hand side as well as the rectangular
25 compound that is mentioned as 50 feet by 60 feet.

1 Verizon would install at a centerline of 170
2 feet AGL. They plan on installing twelve antennas
3 and eight radio heads. Their equipment would be
4 located in the fenced compound.

5 That rectangular fenced area that you see on
6 the right-hand corner is Verizon's 12 by 20
7 concrete pad. On that pad they would place their
8 radio cabinets as well as a 50 kW backup
9 generator.

10 Outside the compound itself in the upper
11 left-hand corner is a meter backboard as well as a
12 transformer. There's also a twelve-foot swing
13 gate for access into the compound.

14 The tower itself is being designed for four
15 carriers as well as public safety. We do show on
16 the right side of the compound as well some
17 landscape screening which involves six six-foot
18 hemlock trees to screen the facility.

19 That concludes the presentation by Homeland.

20 Thank you.

21 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Vergati.

22 We will now call on Ralph Falkenstein to make
23 a public statement followed by Laura Mascolo.

24 Ralph, are you available?

25 RALPH FALKENSTEIN: I have it on mute.

1 THE VICE CHAIR: There you go.

2 RALPH FALKENSTEIN: My family and I have been residents
3 on Hidden Brook Drive for the past 50 years, and
4 we've seen it blossom from scattered homes located
5 in the lush forest area which was abutting a
6 lake -- which we found out too late that was
7 polluted with PCBs which was scattered by the
8 General Electric plant up in Pittsfield,
9 Massachusetts, but it has survived.

10 It's gone to an upscale community in which
11 every possible building lot was developed. And
12 yet, with about a hundred homes it still contains
13 a lot of natural beauty and charm.

14 The proposed tower, which is a 175-foot cell
15 tower, which by the way is equivalent to about a
16 16 or 17-story building, is to be placed inside
17 what is nothing less than a residential community.
18 It also abuts another residential community, as we
19 know, the Lake Lillinonah Shores Condominium and
20 there are another 50 homes in there. So, we're
21 talking about 150 homes, a significant amount and
22 number of people.

23 I think this is a forced placement for such a
24 project, both people-wise and terrain-wise. It's
25 sort of, to me, from what I learned attending the

1 session this afternoon, is a last-resort location
2 after multiple failings to find an allowable,
3 affordable, compatible site in the greater
4 Brookfield and Bridgewater area.

5 And I believe it was Mr. Vergati who was
6 present and at the session who mentioned in the
7 earlier session that it was far more preferable to
8 use town property for such a tower site.

9 The earlier session covered many topics and
10 questions in great detail. And I did learn a lot
11 about the project. It talked about tower design,
12 roadway approaches and construction, what color to
13 paint the tower, and the effect on local wildlife.
14 However, amazingly, what was never discussed was
15 the potential physical effect on humans, the
16 hundreds of men, women, and children who abut the
17 site.

18 I do know from my own research that cell
19 towers have been in the United States since the
20 1980s. However, 5G cell towers, the best I could
21 find, have only been in operation since 2019.
22 That's about five or six years. So, how could one
23 possibly have absolute, conclusive, short-term,
24 let alone long-term health-related studies with a
25 radio frequency of 5,000 megahertz available at

1 this time?

2 I do know that the radiation emitted is of
3 the non-ionizing kind, and therefore safer than
4 the ionizing form, but we do not have any reliable
5 long-term studies that I could come across. As a
6 physician, as a human being, I'm amazed --
7 actually, I was disappointed at this afternoon's
8 session for the omission of this particular topic.

9 For all the technical talk and the concern
10 for animals, bats and whatnot, there was no
11 discussion about human beings. It's indicative of
12 what I think the entire project, unfortunately,
13 has come down to.

14 Were this project to be completed as planned,
15 it is possible that we and our neighbors might be
16 exposed to close-up, continuous radio --

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Falkenstein.

18 Unfortunately, your time has expired. Please be
19 reminded that if you have additional comments, you
20 may write to the Council and provide comments
21 within 30 days of this date.

22 I'll call upon Laura Mascolo, followed by
23 Kyle Danisavage. Laura?

24 LAURA MASCOLO: Hi. Yes, I am here.

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you.

1 LAURA MASCOLO: My name is Laura Mascolo, and I have
2 been a resident of Brookfield for the past seven
3 years. My home is located approximately 1400 feet
4 from the proposed cell tower site. My husband and
5 I chose this location specifically for its
6 historic charm, peaceful setting and beautiful
7 skyline views. It felt like a truly special place
8 to raise our family.

9 I strongly believe that the proposed tower
10 would significantly and negatively alter the
11 scenic character of our neighborhood. This area
12 is defined by its natural wooded landscape,
13 unobstructed views and features that cannot be
14 replaced once they are compromised.

15 In addition to the physical -- to the visual
16 impact, there are serious financial concerns.
17 Homeowners in this neighborhood have made
18 substantial investments in their properties, and
19 we contribute some of the highest property taxes
20 in town.

21 I am a licensed real estate salesperson. I
22 have consulted with colleagues and a tax attorney
23 we work with. It is our professional opinion that
24 the presence of a nearby cell tower would reduce
25 property values by as much as 20 percent. A

1 decline of this magnitude would not only impact
2 individual homeowners, but also have broader
3 implications for the Town's tax base. And the
4 information package provided, it showed 45
5 abutting properties and many, many more with
6 visual impacts. How would our Town compensate for
7 the potential loss in tax revenue?

8 I have read through letters submitted by
9 Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department and
10 Litchfield County Dispatch stating that the
11 proposed tower would be helpful for Litchfield
12 County. However, this site is located in
13 Brookfield. This is Fairfield County. Our
14 neighborhood is not responsible to provide any
15 needs to another county, specifically one that
16 services areas up to 39 miles away.

17 Furthermore, the Verizon coverage map of our
18 area already has a hundred percent voice coverage
19 listed on their website. Given this, it is
20 difficult to justify a significant and permanent
21 alteration to our neighborhood when there does not
22 appear to be a significant demonstrated need.

23 While we fully support the importance of
24 reliable service, alternative solutions should be
25 explored. Upgrading existing infrastructure would

1 be less intrusive, such as our nearby towers on
2 Pocono Road, Vale Road, Carmen Hill and the recent
3 upgraded approval at Wewaka Brook in Bridgewater.

4 Brookfield is unique and cherished by our
5 community. The proposed tower would fundamentally
6 change the natural skyline, diminish the rural
7 scenic character that residents value so deeply.
8 I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the
9 long-term impact of this decision and explore
10 alternative solutions that preserve the integrity
11 of our neighborhood.

12 Thank you.

13 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Mascolo.

14 We'll now call upon Kyle Danisavage, followed
15 by Thomas Shevlin. Kyle? Kyle Danisavage?

16 KYLE DANISAVAGE: (Inaudible.)

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Kyle, it looks like you're on mute.

18 Okay. We'll come back to Kyle.

19 We'll now continue with Thomas Shevlin,
20 please. Thomas?

21 THOMAS SHEVLIN: Good evening. Thomas Shevlin, Obtuse
22 Hill Road, Brookfield, Connecticut. I've been a
23 resident of Brookfield, Connecticut since 1985,
24 when I first arrived in town and then left, and
25 returned with my family in 2014.

1 I am a strong supporter of this project where
2 I believe that the infrastructure for wireless
3 technology is a vital component of our
4 infrastructure, not even just in our town, but for
5 the state and national level. I believe that we
6 need to support our EMS with improved
7 communication.

8 And while the land may not be the most
9 viable, I believe the Town has done the residents
10 a disservice by not accepting Homeland Towers'
11 offer to construct the tower on town property.
12 But this is the best backup plan, I guess.

13 And I just want to lend my support to
14 Homeland Towers, and hopefully the CSC will
15 approve this tower so that, not only more reliable
16 coverage for this area can be established, but
17 also our fire department and other EMS services
18 can be improved as well.

19 Thank you.

20 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Shevlin.

21 I'll now call upon Eric Myers, followed by
22 Pamela Krauss. Eric Myers, please.

23 ERIC MYERS: Good evening, Siting Council members and
24 staff. My name is Eric Myers, as introduced, and
25 I reside at 2 Cove Road.

1 I'm here to support better connectivity for
2 this area however it can be achieved. I have
3 Verizon as my provider of cell phone, text, and
4 data services, which have been poor and
5 inconsistent at best, and absent at worst.
6 Verizon provided us with an extender, which made a
7 minimal but not consistent improvement to service
8 in the house. Outside the house, phone service is
9 very limited as well.

10 New traditional landlines are no longer
11 available here, so we got a VOIP service, which is
12 dependent upon internet, and do have some battery
13 and generator backup. Neighbors have reported no
14 better cell service with other carriers, so our
15 options seem to be limited.

16 More alarming to me was the testimony from
17 first responders at a Brookfield BOS meeting in
18 March of 2024, that they could not adequately
19 carry out their duties in the Barkwood Falls
20 community and Lake Lillinonah because of poor or
21 non-existent cell phone services.

22 Representatives of police, fire, and
23 ambulance services all spoke of the need for cell
24 and data services, particularly for medical
25 transport which is equipped to transmit and

1 receive data from the hospital to assist in
2 patient care before and during transport.

3 The last few days, I understand as the Town
4 of Bridgewater and Litchfield County have
5 approached Homeland Towers to put their equipment
6 on the proposed tower as well, showing a problem
7 particularly on Lake Lillinonah.

8 I followed the odyssey of Brookfield-owned
9 sites and rejections of sites near the high school
10 on both sides of Long Meadow and I believe, First
11 Selectman Dunn, that if they couldn't come to a
12 mutually agreeable site with Homeland Towers, that
13 Homeland would find a privately owned site and
14 that the Town and residents would have a hard time
15 challenging it. This is exactly how it's playing
16 out.

17 Again, I'm here to support improved
18 connectivity to Barkwood Falls community for both
19 personal use and public safety, which means
20 supporting the current tower location.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

22 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Myers.

23 We'll now call upon Pamela Krauss. Pamela?

24 PAMELA KRAUSS: Good evening.

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening.

1 PAMELA KRAUSS: Pam Krauss, Cove Road. I live in
2 Barkwood Falls. I have submitted written
3 comments. I have two points; one is need, the
4 second is other sites.

5 Earlier today, Homeland Towers mentioned that
6 we offered our property as a candidate tower site.
7 The motive of this was desperation since we
8 experienced dropped medical calls, garbled or
9 non-understandable conversations with triage
10 doctors and hospital staff. That is in addition
11 to other failed calls.

12 In the meanwhile, we took self-help steps; a
13 booster, VOIP, battery backup on Verizon and
14 Spectrum equipment, and finally a generator. I am
15 aware that others in the area use long-standing
16 landlines and a variety of devices to capture a
17 signal.

18 I want to be clear, there is a need. I
19 cannot receive the Verizon signal on the private
20 Brookfield Falls beach in the event of a
21 water-related accident. There is not a signal. I
22 routinely walk in our hilly neighborhood and
23 commonly encounter SOS.

24 My second point, I have anxiously been
25 following the process of site selection for a

1 tower servicing our area for two years. I have
2 witnessed and spoken on several sites on town
3 property under consideration. I commented of need
4 at numerous BOS meetings. Our BOS tried to
5 accommodate NIMBY concerns but also warned that a
6 private property site could be selected. There
7 were sites with less aesthetic concerns, but at
8 this point I welcome the proposed tower and I will
9 see it from my home.

10 As an aside, I am an experienced biologist.
11 Bobolinks, a state species of special concern,
12 occur at Burr Farm and Happy Landings, both old
13 farm fields not currently at Gurski. Monarch
14 habitat is typically open fields rather than
15 forested habitat. Their food plant needs sun.

16 Thank you.

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you.

18 Okay, I am going to go back to Kyle
19 Danisavage. Kyle Danisavage, please?

20 Kyle Danisavage, there you go. You are off
21 mute now. Please. Kyle Danisavage?

22 KYLE DANISAVAGE: (Inaudible.)

23 THE VICE CHAIR: Kyle Danisavage? You are no longer on
24 mut,e, so you can speak.

25 KYLE DANISAVAGE: (Inaudible.)

1 THE VICE CHAIR: Okay, well it appears that
2 Mr. Danisavage has a poor connection.

3 Very good. That concludes our public comment
4 session for this evening. The Council announces
5 that it will continue the evidentiary session of
6 this public hearing on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 2
7 p.m. via Zoom remote conferencing.

8 A copy of the agenda for the continued
9 evidentiary hearing session will be available on
10 the Council's website, along with a record of this
11 matter, the public hearing notice, instructions
12 for public access to the evidentiary hearing
13 session, and the Council's citizens guide to the
14 Siting Council's procedures.

15 Please note that anyone who has not become a
16 party or intervener, but who desires to make his
17 or her views known to the Council, may file
18 written statements to the Council until the public
19 comment period closes.

20 Copies of the transcript of this hearing will
21 be filed at the Brookfield Town Clerk's office.

22 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned and
23 thank you, everyone, for your participation.

24 Good evening.

25 (End: 6:54 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 22 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the teleconference PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING of THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL in Re: DOCKET NO. 548, HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC, AND CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT 38 AND 42A HIDDEN BROOK DRIVE, BROOKFIELD, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, THE VICE CHAIR, on April 9, 2026.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2030

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12 10:6	9:1 23:13	abutting 11:5	afternoon 4:22
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150 11:21	4	acceptable 5:22	afternoon's
16 5:4 11:16	42a 1:11 5:12	accepting	13:7
17 11:16	9:4 23:13	17:10	agenda 4:23
170 10:1	45 15:4	access 5:1 8:25	22:8
175 8:24 11:14	5	10:13 22:12	agl 10:2
19 22:6	5,000 12:25	accident 20:21	agreeable
1980s 12:20	50 9:17,25 10:8	accommodate	19:12
1985 16:23	11:3,20	21:5	aided 23:4
1996 5:16	548 1:5 23:8	accordance 7:1	alarming 18:16
2	5g 12:20	accurate 23:4	allowable 12:2
2 4:22 17:25	6	achieved 18:2	allowed 7:9
22:6	6/30/2030	acre 9:5	alter 14:10
2.2 9:2	23:20	acres 9:3	alteration
20 10:6 14:25	60 9:17,25	act 5:6,16,18,25	15:21
2014 16:25	6:30 1:15 4:1,5	actually 13:7	alternative
2019 12:21	6:54 22:25	addition 14:15	15:24 16:10
2024 18:18	7	20:10	amazed 13:6
2025 5:14	700 9:10	additional	amazingly
2026 1:15 4:5	8	13:19	12:14
6:8 22:6 23:16	857 23:19	adequately	ambulance
22 23:3	9	18:18	18:23
23 5:14	9 1:15 4:5	adjourned	amount 11:21
27 6:8	23:16	22:22	analyst 2:22
3	a	administered	4:16
3,000 9:17	absent 18:5	5:17	animals 13:10
30 7:5,15 13:21	absolute 12:23	administrative	announces 22:4
35318 23:18		2:25 4:17 5:5	answer 8:1
		advised 7:4,17	antennas 10:2
		7:25	anxiously
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<p>appear 15:22 appearance 6:21 7:21 appears 22:1 applicant 3:2 6:12 8:7 applicants 6:9 application 1:7 5:6,13,15 6:18 23:9 approached 19:5 approaches 12:12 approval 16:3 approve 17:15 approximately 9:10 14:3 april 1:15 4:5 23:16 area 6:4,5 10:5 11:5 12:4 14:11 15:18 17:16 18:2 20:15 21:1 areas 15:16 arrived 16:24 aside 21:10 assist 19:1 associated 1:10 5:11 23:13 attending 11:25</p>	<p>attorney 2:19 14:22 audio 4:19 authority 4:14 available 4:23 10:24 12:25 18:11 22:9 avoid 7:23 aware 20:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">b</p> <p>b 1:6,17 5:7 23:9 bachman 2:18 4:16 back 16:18 21:18 backboard 10:11 backup 10:8 17:12 18:13 20:13 barkwood 18:19 19:18 20:2 base 15:3 bats 13:10 battery 18:12 20:13 beach 20:20 beautiful 14:6 beauty 11:13 began 4:22</p>	<p>beginning 1:15 beings 13:11 believe 12:5 14:9 17:2,5,9 19:10 benefit 7:11 best 12:20 17:12 18:5 better 18:1,14 bill 2:14 4:9 biologist 21:10 blossom 11:4 bobolinks 21:11 booster 20:13 bos 18:17 21:4 21:4 bottom 8:22 9:12,22 brian 2:5 4:10 bridgewater 12:4 15:9 16:3 19:4 brief 6:20 8:8 8:18 broader 15:2 brook 1:11 5:12 8:25 9:5,7 11:3 16:3 23:14 brookfield 1:12 5:13 8:4,15 12:4 14:2 15:13 16:4,22</p>	<p>16:23 18:17 19:8 20:20 22:21 23:14 building 11:11 11:16 burr 21:12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c</p> <p>c 2:1 3:1 cabinets 10:8 call 10:22 13:22 16:14 17:21 19:23 called 4:4 calls 20:8,11 candidate 20:6 capture 20:16 care 19:2 carefully 16:8 carmen 16:2 carrier 6:3 carriers 6:4 10:15 18:14 carry 18:19 carter 2:11 4:8 cell 11:14 12:18 12:20 14:4,24 18:3,14,21,23 cellco 1:6 5:7 23:8 center 9:12 centerline 10:1 certificate 1:7 5:8 23:1,10</p>
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<p>certify 23:3 chain 9:16 chair 1:18 2:3 4:3,6 8:12 10:21 11:1 13:17,25 16:13 16:17 17:20 19:22,25 21:17 21:23 22:1 23:15 chairman 4:13 challenging 19:15 chance 2:11 4:8 change 16:6 character 14:11 16:7 charm 11:13 14:6 cherished 16:4 children 12:16 chose 14:5 citizens 5:2 22:13 clear 20:18 clerk's 8:5 22:21 close 13:16 closes 22:19 colleagues 14:22 color 12:12 come 8:25 13:5 13:13 16:18</p>	<p>19:11 comment 6:19 7:10,13,18 19:21 22:3,19 23:6 commented 21:3 comments 7:5 13:19,20 20:3 commission 5:18 23:20 commissioner 4:10 commonly 20:23 communication 6:16 17:7 communicati... 5:17 community 11:10,17,18 16:5 18:20 19:18 compatibility 1:8 5:9 23:10 compatible 12:3 compensate 15:6 compete 6:5 complete 23:4 completed 13:14</p>	<p>component 17:3 compound 9:11 9:14,14,16,25 10:4,10,13,16 compromised 14:14 computer 4:19 23:4 concern 13:9 21:11 concerns 7:24 14:16 21:5,7 concludes 10:19 22:3 conclusive 12:23 concrete 10:7 condominium 11:19 conferencing 22:7 confine 7:21 conjunction 9:19 connecticut 1:2 1:3,12 4:7 5:4 5:13 16:22,23 23:7,14 connection 22:2 connectivity 18:1 19:18</p>	<p>consider 16:8 consideration 21:3 considering 5:19 consistent 18:7 construct 17:11 construction 1:9 5:10 12:12 23:11 consulted 14:22 cont'd 3:1 contact 6:13 contains 11:12 continuation 4:21 continue 16:19 22:5 continued 22:8 continuous 13:16 contribute 14:19 convenience 8:5 conversations 20:9 copies 4:22 22:20 copy 22:8 corner 9:2 10:6 10:11</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>council 1:3 2:17 4:7,8 5:14 5:18,25 6:14 6:16,23,25 7:14,19,23 8:1 13:20 17:23 22:4,17,18 23:7 council's 4:23 5:1,2 6:6,9,17 22:10,13,14 councilmemb... 2:2 8:14 county 15:10 15:12,13,15 19:4 cove 17:25 20:1 coverage 15:17 15:18 17:16 covered 12:9 csc 17:14 current 19:20 currently 21:13 cvr 23:19</p>	<p>data 18:4,24 19:1 date 6:6,13 7:15 13:21 days 7:6,15 13:21 19:3 december 5:14 decision 16:9 declare 22:22 decline 15:1 deep 2:6 deeply 16:7 defined 14:12 demonstrated 15:22 department 4:11 5:24 15:9 17:17 dependent 18:12 deposited 8:4 describing 8:8 design 12:11 designed 10:14 designee 2:6,9 4:10,12 desires 22:16 desperation 20:7 detail 12:10 developed 11:11 devices 20:16</p>	<p>difficult 15:20 diminish 16:6 director 2:19 4:15 disappointed 13:7 discretion 7:19 discriminating 6:1 discussed 12:14 discussion 13:11 dispatch 15:10 disservice 17:10 dixon 23:19 docket 1:5 23:7 doctors 20:10 dr 2:13 4:9 drive 1:11 5:12 8:25 11:3 23:14 dropped 20:8 dunn 8:15 19:11 duties 18:19 dykes 4:11</p>	<p>effect 12:13,15 effects 5:19 eight 9:15 10:3 electric 11:8 emissions 5:20 5:21 emitted 13:2 ems 17:6,17 encounter 20:23 energy 4:11 entire 13:12 environmental 1:8 4:12 5:8 23:10 equipment 1:10 5:12 6:2 10:3 19:5 20:14 23:13 equipped 18:25 equivalent 6:2 11:15 erected 6:10 eric 17:21,22 17:23,24 esq 2:18 established 17:16 estate 14:21 evening 4:3 8:11,12,14 16:21 17:23 19:24,25 22:4 22:24</p>
<p>d</p>	<p>d 1:6,17 5:7 23:9 daniel 2:15 4:9 danisavage 13:23 16:14,15 16:16 21:19,19 21:20,21,22,23 21:25 22:2</p>	<p>e</p>	<p>e 1:17,17,17 2:1 2:1 3:1,1 7:16 21:24 earlier 12:7,9 20:5</p>

<p>event 20:20 evidentiary 22:5,9,12 exactly 19:15 executive 2:19 4:15 existent 18:21 existing 15:25 experienced 20:8 21:10 expired 13:18 expires 23:20 explore 16:9 explored 15:25 exposed 13:16 extender 18:6 extent 5:21</p>	<p>far 12:7 farm 21:12,13 features 14:13 federal 5:17,22 5:25 feet 9:10,15,18 9:25,25 10:2 14:3 felt 14:7 fence 9:15,16 fenced 9:14 10:4,5 fields 21:13,14 file 22:17 filed 22:21 finally 20:14 financial 14:16 find 12:2,21</p>	<p>forced 11:23 foregoing 23:3 forest 11:5 forested 21:15 form 13:4 found 11:6 four 10:14 frequency 12:25 friends 7:12 fully 15:23 functionally 6:2 fundamentally 16:5 furthermore 15:17</p>	<p>good 4:3 8:11 8:12,14 16:21 17:23 19:24,25 22:3,24 governed 5:15 gravel 9:7 great 12:10 greater 12:3 guess 17:12 guide 5:2 22:13 gurski 21:13</p>
<p>f</p>	<p>find 12:2,21</p>	<p>g</p>	<p>h</p>
<p>f 1:17 facility 1:10 5:11 6:12 8:9 10:18 23:12 failed 20:11 failings 12:2 fairfield 15:13 fairness 7:2 falkenstein 10:22,25 11:2 13:17 falls 18:19 19:18 20:2,20 family 11:2 14:8 16:25</p>	<p>19:13 fire 15:9 17:17 18:22 first 8:15 16:24 18:17 19:10 five 12:22 followed 5:23 10:23 13:22 16:14 17:21 19:8 following 20:25 fontaine 2:24 4:17 food 21:15 foot 8:24 9:8 10:12,17 11:14</p>	<p>g 23:19 garbled 20:8 gate 10:13 general 5:4 11:8 generator 10:9 18:13 20:14 gentlemen 4:3 given 15:19 go 9:10,21 11:1 21:18,20 going 21:18 golembiewski 2:5 4:10</p>	<p>h 1:17 habitat 21:14 21:15 hall 2:12 4:8 hand 9:1,24 10:6,11 happy 21:12 hard 19:14 heads 10:3 health 5:19,20 5:24 12:24 hear 7:24 hearing 1:14 4:4,21,25 5:1,3 6:7,13 7:1,6 8:4 22:6,9,11 22:12,20,22 23:6 height 9:15 held 5:3 23:15</p>

<p>help 20:12 helpful 15:11 hemlock 10:18 hereof 7:15 hi 13:24 hidden 1:11 5:12 8:25 9:4,6 11:3 23:13 high 19:9 highest 14:19 hill 16:2,22 hilly 20:22 historic 14:6 home 14:3 21:9 homeland 1:6 3:2 5:6 8:17 10:19 17:10,14 19:5,12,13 20:5 23:8 homeowners 14:17 15:2 homes 11:4,12 11:20,21 hopefully 17:14 hospital 19:1 20:10 house 18:8,8 human 5:20 13:6,11 humans 12:15 hundred 11:12 15:18 hundreds 12:16</p>	<p>husband 14:4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">i</p> <p>impact 14:16 15:1 16:9 impacts 15:6 implications 15:3 importance 15:23 improved 17:6 17:18 19:17 improvement 18:7 inaudible 16:16 21:22,25 including 6:14 7:8 inconsistent 18:5 indicative 13:11 individual 15:2 inform 6:11 information 6:13 15:4 infrastructure 15:25 17:2,4 inside 11:16 install 10:1 installing 10:2 instructions 4:25 22:11</p>	<p>integrity 16:10 internet 18:12 intervener 22:16 interveners 7:7 introduced 17:24 introduction 8:13 intrusive 16:1 investments 14:18 involves 9:20 10:17 involving 8:19 ionizing 13:3,4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">j</p> <p>january 6:8 john 1:18 2:3 4:6 23:15 join 7:12 jr 2:15 4:10 justify 15:20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">k</p> <p>katie 4:11 khristine 2:12 4:8 kind 9:12 13:3 know 11:19 12:18 13:2 known 22:17 krauss 17:22 19:23,24 20:1</p>	<p>20:1 kw 10:8 kyle 13:23 16:14,15,15,16 16:17,18 21:18 21:19,20,21,22 21:23,25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">l</p> <p>l 1:17 labeled 8:22 9:4,22 ladies 4:3 lake 11:6,19 18:20 19:7 land 17:8 landings 21:12 landlines 18:10 20:16 landscape 10:17 14:12 late 11:6 laura 10:23 13:22,23,24 14:1,1 law 6:18 learn 12:10 learned 11:25 left 9:1 10:11 16:24 legal 6:6 lend 17:13 length 9:10</p>
---	---	--	--

<p>letters 15:8 level 17:5 licensed 14:21 lillinonah 11:19 18:20 19:7 limit 5:22 limited 6:21 7:3 7:20 18:9,15 link 9:16 lisa 2:24 4:17 listed 15:19 listening 7:11 litchfield 15:10 15:11 19:4 live 20:1 llc 1:6 5:7 23:8 local 12:13 located 1:11 5:12 10:4 11:4 14:3 15:12 23:13 location 12:1 14:5 19:20 long 12:24 13:5 16:9 19:10 20:15 longer 18:10 21:23 looks 16:17 loss 15:7 lot 11:11,13 12:10</p>	<p>lush 11:5 lynch 2:15 4:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">m</p> <p>m 23:19 made 8:3 14:17 18:6 magnitude 15:1 mail 7:15,16 maintenance 1:9 5:10 23:11 make 6:20 8:7 8:18 10:22 22:16 making 6:23 7:20 8:10 manager 3:4 8:17 map 15:17 march 18:18 mascolo 10:23 13:22,24 14:1 14:1 16:13 massachusetts 11:9 matter 4:24 7:22 22:11 meadow 19:10 means 6:3 19:19 medical 18:24 20:8</p>	<p>meeting 18:17 meetings 21:4 megahertz 12:25 melanie 2:18 4:16 member 6:16 6:17 members 4:7 4:15 6:20,23 7:9 17:23 men 12:16 mentioned 9:25 12:6 20:5 merits 6:17 meter 10:11 michael 2:21 4:16 miles 15:16 minimal 18:7 minutes 7:4 monarch 21:13 monopole 8:24 9:23 morissette 1:18 2:3 4:6 8:12 23:15 motive 20:7 multiple 12:2 mut 21:24 mute 4:19 10:25 16:17 21:21</p>	<p>mutually 19:12 myers 17:21,22 17:23,24 19:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">n</p> <p>n 2:1 3:1 name 4:6 6:11 8:16 14:1 17:24 national 17:5 natural 11:13 14:12 16:6 near 19:9 nearby 14:24 16:1 need 1:8 5:9 15:22 17:6 18:23 20:3,18 21:3 23:11 needs 15:15 21:15 negatively 14:10 neighborhood 14:11,17 15:14 15:21 16:11 20:22 neighbors 7:12 7:25 13:15 18:13 never 12:14 new 8:20 18:10 news 6:8</p>
--	---	---	--

<p>nguyen 2:8 4:12 nimby 21:5 non 13:3 18:21 20:9 notary 23:20 note 7:7,10 22:15 notes 23:5 notice 4:25 6:6 7:1 22:11 number 6:14 11:22 numerous 21:4</p>	<p>opportunity 19:21 options 18:15 order 4:4 original 23:5 outside 10:10 18:8 own 12:18 owned 19:8,13</p>	<p>partnership 1:6 5:7 23:8 party 22:16 past 11:3 14:2 patient 19:2 pcbs 11:7 peaceful 14:6 people 11:22,24 percent 14:25 15:18</p>	<p>playing 19:15 please 4:19 7:4 7:17,25 13:18 16:20 17:22 21:19,21 22:15 pocono 16:2 point 20:24 21:8 points 20:3 police 18:22 polluted 11:7 poor 18:4,20 22:2</p>
<p>o</p>	<p>p</p>	<p>15:18</p>	<p>period 22:19 permanent 15:20 perrone 2:21 4:16 person 7:5,17 7:20 personal 19:19 phone 6:14 18:3,8,21 physical 12:15 14:15 physician 13:6 pittsfield 11:8 place 10:7 14:7 placed 11:16 placement 11:23 plan 8:18,22 10:2 17:12 planned 9:8 13:14 plant 11:8 21:15</p>
<p>o 1:17 obtuse 16:21 occur 21:12 odyssey 19:8 offer 17:11 offered 20:6 office 8:5 22:21 okay 16:18 21:18 22:1 old 21:12 omission 13:8 once 14:14 open 21:14 operation 1:9 5:10 12:21 23:12 opinion 14:23</p>	<p>p 2:1,1,15 3:1,1 4:9 p.m. 1:15 4:1,5 4:22 22:7,25 package 15:4 pad 10:7,7 pages 23:3 paint 12:13 pam 20:1 pamela 17:22 19:23,23,24 20:1 parcel 9:1,2,4,5 participate 7:9 participation 22:23 particular 8:19 9:12 13:8 particularly 8:23 18:24 19:7 parties 6:22,24 7:7</p>	<p>period 22:19 permanent 15:20 perrone 2:21 4:16 person 7:5,17 7:20 personal 19:19 phone 6:14 18:3,8,21 physical 12:15 14:15 physician 13:6 pittsfield 11:8 place 10:7 14:7 placed 11:16 placement 11:23 plan 8:18,22 10:2 17:12 planned 9:8 13:14 plant 11:8 21:15</p>	<p>possible 11:11 13:15 possibly 12:23 potential 12:15 15:7 preferable 12:7 prepared 4:23 presence 14:24 present 12:6 presentation 8:8,10,18 10:19 preserve 16:10 privacy 9:16 private 20:19 21:6 privately 19:13 problem 19:6 procedure 5:6 procedures 5:2 22:14</p>

<p>proceedings 7:21 process 20:25 professional 14:23 profile 9:23 prohibited 6:18 prohibits 5:18 5:25 project 8:19,23 9:19,20 11:24 12:11 13:12,14 17:1 properties 14:18 15:5 property 12:8 14:19,25 17:11 20:6 21:3,6 proposal 8:2 proposed 6:10 8:9,23 9:7 11:14 14:4,9 15:11 16:5 19:6 21:8 protection 4:12 provide 6:5 13:20 15:14 provided 15:4 18:6 provider 18:3 providers 6:1 provides 6:3 provisions 5:4</p>	<p>public 1:8,14 4:13,21,25,25 5:1,9,24 6:7,11 6:12,19,20,23 7:1,3,6,10,13 7:18 8:2,6,8 10:15,23 19:19 22:3,6,11,12,18 23:6,11,20 published 6:7 pura 2:9 pursuant 5:3 put 19:5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">q</p> <p>quat 2:8 4:12 questions 6:22 6:24 8:1 12:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">r</p> <p>r 1:17 2:1 3:1 radiation 13:2 radio 10:3,8 12:25 13:16 radiofrequency 5:19 raise 14:8 ralph 10:22,24 10:25 11:2 rather 21:14 ray 3:3 8:9,12 8:16 read 15:8 real 14:21</p>	<p>receive 19:1 20:19 received 5:14 recent 16:2 record 4:24 6:15 8:16 22:10 rectangular 9:24 10:5 reduce 14:24 regional 3:4 8:17 regulatory 4:14 rejections 19:9 related 12:24 20:21 reliable 13:4 15:24 17:15 reminded 13:19 reminder 6:15 remote 1:14 22:7 removed 7:18 9:20 repetition 7:23 replaced 14:14 reported 18:13 representatives 7:8 18:22 request 6:9 8:7 research 12:18 reserved 6:19</p>	<p>reside 17:25 resident 14:2 16:23 residential 11:17,18 residents 8:15 11:2 16:7 17:9 19:14 resort 12:1 respectfully 16:8 responders 18:17 responsible 15:14 returned 16:25 revenue 15:7 right 6:4 8:22 9:22,24 10:6 10:16 road 9:3,6,7,9 9:10 16:2,2,22 17:25 20:1 roadway 12:12 robert 23:19 roughly 9:2,5 routinely 20:22 rural 16:6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">s</p> <p>s 2:1 3:1 safe 5:22 safer 13:3</p>
---	---	---	--

<p>safety 10:15 19:19 salesperson 14:21 scattered 11:4 11:7 scenic 14:11 16:7 school 19:9 scott 2:13 4:9 screen 8:21 9:2 10:18 screening 10:17 second 20:4,24 see 8:21 9:6 10:5 21:9 seem 18:15 seen 11:4 selected 21:6 selection 20:25 selectman 8:15 19:11 self 20:12 send 7:14 serious 14:16 service 6:4,5 15:24 18:7,8 18:11,14 services 6:2 15:16 17:17 18:4,21,23,24 servicing 21:1</p>	<p>session 6:19 7:10,13,18 12:1,6,7,9 13:8 22:4,5,9,13 setting 14:6 seven 14:2 several 21:2 sheet 9:13,21 9:22 shevlin 16:15 16:19,21,21 17:20 shores 11:19 short 12:23 show 10:15 showed 15:4 showing 19:6 shows 8:23 9:23 side 9:24 10:16 sides 19:10 sign 6:10 signal 20:17,19 20:21 signature 23:18 signed 6:20 7:2 significant 11:21 15:20,22 significantly 14:10 site 6:11 8:18 8:21 12:3,8,17 14:4 15:12 19:12,13 20:6</p>	<p>20:25 21:6 sites 19:9,9 20:4 21:2,7 siting 1:3 2:22 4:7,16 5:2 17:23 22:14 23:7 six 10:17,17 12:22 size 9:3,17 skyline 14:7 16:6 slats 9:16 solutions 15:24 16:10 sort 11:25 sos 20:23 south 9:7 sp 8:22 9:12 speak 7:3 21:24 special 14:7 21:11 species 21:11 specifically 14:5 15:15 spectrum 20:14 spoke 18:23 spoken 21:2 square 9:17 staff 2:17,19 4:15 6:17 8:14 17:24 20:10 standard 5:23</p>	<p>standards 5:23 standing 20:15 state 1:2 5:24 17:5 21:11 statement 7:21 10:23 statements 6:21,21,24 7:3 7:14,22 22:18 states 12:19 stating 15:10 statutes 5:5 steps 20:12 story 11:16 strong 17:1 strongly 14:9 studies 12:24 13:5 subject 6:22 7:22 submitted 7:5 15:8 20:2 substantial 14:18 sun 21:15 support 2:25 4:17 15:23 17:6,13 18:1 19:17 supporter 17:1 supporting 19:20 survived 11:9</p>
--	--	--	--

swing 10:12	think 11:23	17:11 19:3,14	understand 8:9
syne 2:14 4:9	13:12	21:2 22:21	19:3
t	thomas 4:13	town's 15:3	understandable
taken 23:5	16:15,19,20,21	traditional	20:9
talk 13:9	16:21	18:10	unfortunately
talked 12:11	three 7:4	transcript 8:3	13:12,18
talking 9:17	thursday 1:15	22:20	uniform 5:5
11:21	4:4	transcription	unique 16:4
tax 14:22 15:3	time 6:7 8:7	23:5	united 12:19
15:7	13:1,18 19:14	transformer	unobstructed
taxes 14:19	times 6:8	10:12	14:13
technical 13:9	title 5:4	transmit 18:25	unreasonable
technology	today 20:5	transport	7:23
17:3	took 20:12	18:25 19:2	upgraded 16:3
telecommuni...	topic 13:8	traveling 9:6	upgrading
1:10 5:11,16	topics 12:9	traverse 9:3	15:25
23:12	towards 9:4	trees 9:20	upper 9:1
teleconference	tower 8:20 9:11	10:18	10:10
1:14 23:6	10:14 11:14,15	trenched 9:9	upscale 11:10
telephones 4:20	12:8,11,13	triage 20:9	urge 16:8
ten 9:5	14:4,9,24	tried 21:4	use 12:8 19:19
term 12:23,24	15:11 16:5	truly 14:7	20:15
13:5 16:9	17:11,15 19:6	tuesday 22:6	utilities 4:13
terrain 11:24	19:20 20:6	twelve 9:8 10:2	9:8
testimony	21:1,8	10:12	v
18:16	towers 1:6 3:2	two 20:3 21:1	vale 16:2
text 18:3	5:7,21 8:17	type 6:12	value 16:7
thank 8:13	12:19,20 16:1	typically 21:14	values 14:25
10:20,21 13:17	17:10,14 19:5	u	variety 20:16
13:25 16:12,13	19:12 20:5	unable 7:12	verbatim 8:3
17:19,20 19:21	23:8	under 21:3	23:5
19:22 21:16,17	town 8:5 12:8	underground	vergati 3:3 8:9
22:23	14:20 15:6	9:9	8:11,12,16
	16:24 17:4,9		

<p>10:21 12:5 verizon 1:7 5:7 9:19 10:1 15:17 18:3,6 20:13,19 23:9 verizon's 10:6 viable 17:9 vice 1:18 2:3 4:3,6 8:12 10:21 11:1 13:17,25 16:13 16:17 17:20 19:22,25 21:17 21:23 22:1 23:15 vicinity 6:10 views 14:7,13 22:17 visual 14:15 15:6 vital 17:3 voice 15:18 voip 18:11 20:13 volunteer 15:9</p>	<p>we've 11:4 website 4:24 6:14 15:19 22:10 welcome 21:8 wewaka 16:3 whatnot 13:10 wide 9:8 wiehl 4:13 wildlife 5:20 12:13 williams 2:13 4:9 wireless 1:7 5:8 17:2 23:9 wise 11:24,24 wish 7:7,10 witnessed 21:2 witnesses 7:8 women 12:16 wooded 14:12 work 14:23 worst 18:5 write 13:20 written 7:4,14 20:2 22:18</p>	<p>z</p> <p>zoom 1:14 22:7</p>
<p>w</p>	<p>y</p>	
<p>walk 20:22 want 17:13 20:18 warned 21:5 water 20:21 way 9:11 11:15</p>	<p>years 11:3 12:22 14:3 21:1</p>	