

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3
4 Docket No. 495A

5 Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
6 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
7 Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and
8 operation of a telecommunications facility located
9 at 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, Connecticut

10 ***

11 Reopening of this Certificate based on changed
12 conditions pursuant to Connecticut General
13 Statutes, Section 4-181a(b)

14
15 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

16
17 Public Comment Session held on Thursday, March 31,
18 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m., via remote access.

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

21 JOHN MORISSETTE, Presiding Officer

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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 **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**
9 **LOUANNE COOLEY**
10 **MARK QUINLAN**

11 **Council Staff:**

12 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**
13 **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

14 **ROBERT MERCIER**
15 **Siting Analyst**

16 **LISA FONTAINE**
17 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

18 **For Certificate Holder, Homeland Towers, LLC**
19 **and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon**
20 **Wireless:**

21 **ROBINSON & COLE LLP**
22 **280 Trumbull Street**
23 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597**
24 **BY: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.**
25

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 **CUDDY & FEDER LLP**
6 **445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor**
7 **White Plains, New York 10601**
8 **BY: KRISTEN MOTEL, ESQ.**

9 **Public Speakers:**

10 **FRAN BOUDREAU**
11 **NANCY HALPERT**
12 **MARC W. HALPERT**
13 **MICHAEL KATZ**
14 **JUDITH KATZ**
15 **MOHSEN SHEIKH**
16 **KIRWIN MICHAEL IRISH**
17 **KAREN McCORMACK**

18
19
20 **Zoom co-host: Aaron Demarest**

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

22 ***** (Inaudible) - denotes breaks in speech due to**
23 **interruptions in audio or echo.**

1 MR. MORISSETTE: This remote public
2 hearing is called to order this Thursday, March
3 31, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. My name is John
4 Morissette, member and presiding officer of the
5 Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the
6 Council are Kenneth Collette, designee for
7 Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of
8 Energy and Environmental Protection, Robert
9 Silvestri, Louanne Cooley, Mark Quinlan, Daniel P.
10 Lynch, Jr.

11 Members of the staff are Melanie
12 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
13 Robert Mercier, siting analyst; and Lisa Fontaine,
14 fiscal administrative officer.

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

18 This is a continuation of the remote
19 public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this
20 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
21 available on the Council's Docket No. 495A
22 webpage, along with the record of this matter, the
23 public hearing notice, instructions for public
24 access to this remote public hearing, and the
25 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council

1 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 a motion to reopen the
6 Council's April 26, 2021 final decision to issue
7 Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless a
8 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
9 Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and
10 operation of a telecommunications facility located
11 at 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, Connecticut, based
12 on a changed condition.

13 On February 24, 2022, the Council,
14 pursuant to a request filed by Verizon Wireless
15 and the provisions of Connecticut General
16 Statutes, Section 4-181a(b), reopened its April
17 26, 2021 final decision to issue Verizon a
18 Certificate to consider a proposed relocated site
19 for the telecommunications facility on the Sacred
20 Heart University campus.

21 This application is also governed by
22 the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is
23 administered by the Federal Communications
24 Commission. This Act prohibits the Council from
25 considering the health effects of radio frequency

1 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
2 extent the emissions from the towers are within
3 the federal acceptable safe limits standards,
4 which standards are also followed by the state
5 Department of Public Health.

6 The Federal Act also prohibits this
7 Council from discriminating between and amongst
8 providers of functionally equivalent services.
9 This means that if one carrier already provides
10 service for an area, other carriers have the right
11 to compete and provide service in the same area.

12 The Council's legal notice of the date
13 and time of this remote public hearing was
14 published in The Connecticut Post on March 3,
15 2022. Upon this Council's request, the
16 Certificate Holder erected a sign along Jefferson
17 Street near the existing Sacred Heart University
18 campus entrance driveway that leads to the
19 proposed relocated facility site so as to inform
20 the public of the name of the Certificate Holder,
21 the type of facility, the remote public hearing
22 date, and contact information for the Council,
23 including the website and phone number.

24 This remote public comment session is
25 reserved for the public to make brief statements

1 into the record. These public statements are not
2 subject to questions from the parties or the
3 Council, and members of the public making
4 statements may not ask questions of the parties or
5 the Council. In fairness to everyone who has
6 signed up to speak, these public statements will
7 be limited to three minutes and will become part
8 of the record for Council consideration. Please
9 be advised that written comments may be submitted
10 by any person within 30 days of this public
11 hearing.

12 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
13 communication with a member of the Council or a
14 member of the Council's staff upon the merits of
15 this requested facility relocation is prohibited
16 by law.

17 I wish to note that parties and
18 intervenors, including their representatives,
19 witnesses and members, are not allowed to
20 participate in the public comment session. I also
21 wish to note for those who are listening and for
22 the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are
23 unable to join us for this remote public comment
24 session that you or they may send written
25 statements to the Council within 30 days of the

1 date hereof by either email or by mail, and such
2 written statements will be given the same weight
3 as if spoken at the remote public comment session.
4 Please be advised that any person may be removed
5 from the Zoom remote public comment session at the
6 discretion of the Council.

7 We ask that each person making a public
8 statement in this proceeding to confine his or her
9 statements to the subject matter before the
10 Council and to avoid unnecessary repetition so
11 that we may hear all of the concerns you and your
12 neighbors may have. Please be advised that the
13 Council cannot answer questions from the public
14 about the proposal.

15 A verbatim transcript of this remote
16 public hearing will be posted on the Council's
17 Docket No. 495A webpage and deposited with the
18 Fairfield, Easton and Trumbull Town Clerk's
19 Offices and in the Bridgeport City Clerk's Office
20 for the convenience of the public.

21 Please be advised that the Council's
22 project evaluation criteria under the statute does
23 not include the consideration of property values.

24 Before I call on the members of the
25 public to make statements, I request that the

1 Certificate Holder to make a brief presentation to
2 the public describing the proposed relocated
3 facility.

4 Attorney Baldwin.

5 MR. BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr.
6 Morissette. Good evening, everyone. My name is
7 Ken Baldwin. I'm a lawyer at Robinson & Cole in
8 Hartford, and I represent Verizon Wireless in this
9 matter before the Connecticut Siting Council.

10 I thought it might be helpful just to
11 give a brief summary of the history of this site.
12 It's moved around a little bit. And I think this
13 map that Attorney Bachman is about ready to put on
14 the screen helps us narrate through that history.

15 Verizon Wireless, as well as AT&T and
16 T-Mobile, have used the old Jewish home building,
17 now Toussaint Hall, at Sacred Heart University in
18 the center of the campus since the early 2000s for
19 the provision of wireless service. Recently, the
20 leases that allowed the carriers to exist on the
21 roof have expired. Verizon, working with Sacred
22 Heart University and the other carriers, moved
23 forward with an application to the Siting Council
24 two years ago to relocate the tower in the
25 northwest corner of the Sacred Heart University

1 campus that's shown in the yellow, up in the
2 northwest, the upper left-hand corner of this map.
3 The label there says proposed monopole and
4 equipment within the proposed 50 by 50 foot
5 compound. That was the application that was
6 presented to the Siting Council two years ago, and
7 in April of 2021 the Siting Council approved that
8 in Docket No. 495.

9 After receiving that approval, Sacred
10 Heart University and Verizon Wireless began
11 discussing alternatives in an effort to try and
12 address concerns that Sacred Heart and the town
13 raised. We went through an extensive process
14 looking at a number of different locations on the
15 Sacred Heart campus for a relocated facility in an
16 effort to address some of those concerns, and
17 where we came down on was the location that is
18 currently before the Council in what is called
19 Docket 495A.

20 The 495A tower site is located in the
21 low portion of the campus. As you see, it's in
22 yellow, Verizon Wireless permanent facility.
23 We'll talk more about the details of that
24 facility, but you can see it is located at the
25 southwest corner of the Pitt Center, the Pitt

1 Athletic Center on the Sacred Heart campus
2 adjacent to the football field.

3 Because the new tower would not be
4 built before the existing rooftop facilities had
5 to be removed, Verizon also received Siting
6 Council approval to install a temporary facility
7 which is shown here in the middle of the map
8 adjacent to the Valentine Recreation building
9 where it says proposed Verizon Wireless temporary
10 facility. If we can go to the next slide, please.

11 So the proposed facility that is before
12 the Siting Council now, again located down at the
13 southwest corner of the Pitt Center, consists of
14 an irregularly shaped area. Verizon Wireless
15 would construct a bell -- a simulated or a faux
16 bell tower structure which would consist of three
17 unipole structures and a triangular platform in
18 the middle of that structure. We'll talk about
19 the details about that in a second.

20 Immediately to the west of that bell
21 tower structure would be a new two-story equipment
22 shelter shown there on the plan. That equipment
23 shelter would house all of the wireless equipment
24 for Verizon Wireless, AT&T and T-Mobile. It would
25 also serve as additional storage for Sacred Heart

1 University athletic teams and for the athletic
2 complex. Could we go to the next slide, please.

3 This is an elevation view of the bell
4 tower structure. Again, you see the three
5 separate unipole structures as well as a screening
6 panel toward the top where it currently says SHU.
7 The plan would be to install antennas at four
8 different levels. The top level you'll see the
9 antennas inside those unipole structures. Those
10 would be Verizon Wireless antennas. Beneath those
11 in the three different poles are T-Mobile
12 antennas. Behind the RF transparent screening
13 panels would be AT&T antennas. And then
14 immediately below the AT&T antennas would be a
15 second set of Verizon Wireless antennas.

16 So the antennas above those screening
17 panels would be within the tower structure itself,
18 and the antennas below or behind those screening
19 panels would be screened by the panels themselves.
20 None of the antennas proposed on this structure
21 will be visible from outside the structure, which
22 was the original intent when we were dealing with
23 Sacred Heart University. We wanted to have this
24 structure appear as a bell tower and screen all of
25 the antennas so that they wouldn't be visible from

1 outside the structure.

2 I should point out that at this
3 afternoon's session Verizon Wireless witnesses
4 testified to the fact that even though this
5 structure shows the Sacred Heart University logo
6 on the RF transparent screen panels and a bell in
7 an effort to make it appear as that faux bell
8 tower structure, those have been removed from the
9 proposal. We are no longer proposing the SHU
10 logo, nor are we proposing the installation of a
11 bell on the bell tower structure. You can also
12 see just to the left of the bell tower elevation
13 here the actual two-story structure. That stair
14 that would take you up to the second level to
15 access Verizon's equipment room would be on the
16 back side of that building.

17 And then in the upper right-hand corner
18 of this plan sheet is a plan view of the antennas
19 that would be behind the RF transparent screening
20 panels that is shown on the elevation drawing.

21 Thank you, Mr. Morissette. That's all.

22 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Attorney
23 Baldwin. Just a quick note on remote public
24 hearings. Remote public hearings are quite
25 different than in-person public hearings. For

1 in-person public hearings members of the public
2 can sign up, step up to the podium and offer their
3 comments. For remote public hearings, the public
4 is required to sign up to speak in advance in
5 order to provide the Council staff with the time
6 necessary to facilitate connection precautions, to
7 prevent interruptions, or in common terms, bombing
8 of the proceedings. There are protocols,
9 procedures and consistency measures that are
10 followed as part of the remote public hearing
11 process. Written comments may be submitted within
12 30 days of this public hearing.

13 We will now proceed with the public
14 comment session. We'll now call on Sarah
15 Gravinese to make a public statement followed by
16 Fran and Mary Boudreau.

17 Sarah, are you with us?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. MORISSETTE: I don't see Sarah
20 Gravinese on the screen at this point so we'll
21 move on. Fran and Mary Boudreau followed by Nancy
22 Halpert.

23 Fran and Mary Boudreau, please.

24 FRAN BOUDREAU: Hello. Thank you for
25 the opportunity to speak. Can you hear me okay?

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, I can.

2 FRAN BOUDREAU: Great.

3 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you.

4 FRAN BOUDREAU: Our areas of concern
5 are in three areas mainly, the first being
6 communication. So we live on Autumn Ridge Road.
7 It's mentioned in the documents that I was
8 reviewing, yet we received no notification of the
9 proceedings or the proposal of the temporary and
10 the permanent cell tower installation as others, I
11 guess, in the neighborhood surrounding Sacred
12 Heart University received. So we found out when a
13 neighbor mentioned it to us. So we wonder why,
14 why was Autumn Ridge excluded from that type of
15 notification when our residence is in as close
16 proximity to the university as others are across
17 Jefferson Street.

18 Our second area of concern is around
19 noise. From the documents I reviewed, it
20 mentioned a diesel generator. And so I don't know
21 what the noise level is from that. I don't know
22 if I'll hear it from my home. I don't know if it
23 runs continuously or only during power outages.
24 It's a concern mainly because there's a limited
25 buffer for noise because the barrier between us

1 and the university is really a golf course, so the
2 noise travels well across that. We hear the
3 football games now. We hear the SHU band playing.
4 So that's a concern for us on the noise level.

5 And the third area is around the visual
6 impact. And I don't know if there are lights with
7 the tower. I couldn't discern that from the
8 documentation. I can certainly see the football
9 field lights from my yard. So that's a concern.

10 So to summarize, my requirement would
11 be I would prefer not to hear it and not to be
12 negatively impacted by it in my home. Thank you.

13 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Fran, will
14 you be providing any comments this evening?

15 FRAN BOUDREAU: I'm Fran. Mary is with
16 me, and we're set. Thank you.

17 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Very good.
18 Sorry about that. Thank you.

19 Okay. We will now move on to Nancy
20 Halpert followed by Mark Halpert.

21 NANCY HALPERT: My name is Nancy
22 Halpert, and I have lived for 31 years at 344
23 Autumn Ridge Road. My property lies at the end of
24 the cul-de-sac directly across from the football
25 field at Sacred heart University. I'm appalled

1 that in the two-year approval process of the
2 Jefferson Street site with the now proposed site
3 at the SHU football field that Robinson & Cole,
4 acting on behalf of Cellco Partnership for review
5 by the Siting Council and other parties, failed
6 multiple times to contact anyone in my immediate
7 neighborhood or ask for our thoughts on the direct
8 impact on our street.

9 One, a temporary tower was built with
10 no contact with or input from our neighborhood,
11 and it's visible from my yard. Imagine our
12 surprise to suddenly see a temporary cell tower in
13 our backyard. We were omitted.

14 Two, my next-door neighbors and other
15 neighbors' addresses, 360 and 216 Autumn Ridge
16 Road respectfully, were mentioned multiple times
17 in each iteration of paperwork surrounding this
18 project, yet no notification to them or anyone on
19 my street. We were omitted.

20 Three, in Petition 1470, attachment 2,
21 page 10, the site plan, our neighborhood is deemed
22 as abutting properties according to the lines and
23 legend. Further, in Docket 495A, Exhibit 2, page
24 13, abutters plan, our houses on Autumn Ridge and
25 immediate neighborhood are once again clearly

1 identified as abutting properties in the legend to
2 the maps. In addition, in Petition 1470, the
3 interrogatories, page 5, Question 10, specifically
4 notes the distance to the nearest off site off
5 campus residence at 850 feet from 360 Autumn Ridge
6 Road, my immediate neighbor. We were omitted.

7 Four, in Docket 495 our properties
8 failed to be included on the map whatsoever. Four
9 major oversights, and the law firm failed each
10 time to notify us. We were omitted. Donna Drive,
11 Weeping Willow Lane, Jefferson Street, Park Avenue
12 property owners were contacted multiple times, yet
13 my neighbors on Autumn Ridge Road and vicinity are
14 only 1,250 feet to 1,405 feet from the proposed
15 cell tower at the football field and were never
16 notified.

17 Ironically, a photographer was sent
18 twice in April 2020 and September 2021 to depict
19 the visibility of the approved telecom tower from
20 the end of my driveway and from my next-door
21 neighbor's yard, pictures 14 and 15 in the visual
22 assessment and photo simulation printed April
23 2020. Someone must have identified Autumn Ridge
24 Road as a place worth considering from the maps
25 enough to take these pictures.

1 In today's evidentiary hearing I
2 learned that the Jefferson Street location is off
3 the table due to opposition from the neighbors.
4 Since my neighborhood was never notified about the
5 tower in any of the three locations, nor afforded
6 the right to express our opinions though clearly
7 should have been, at a bare minimum, we deserve
8 the same accommodation. Therefore, I urge you to
9 reject the proposal and move the tower to the
10 football field. Thank you very much.

11 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mrs.
12 Halpert. We'll now call on Marc Halpert.

13 MARC HALPERT: My name is Marc Halpert.
14 I've lived at 344 Autumn Ridge Road for 31 years
15 at the end of the cul-de-sac, the quiet cul-de-sac
16 directly across from Sacred Heart University
17 football field which sits atop a hill overlooking
18 my property. I moved there for the quiet
19 enjoyment of a backyard with a natural view of a
20 golf course.

21 As Sacred Heart University grows, so
22 does its encroachment on my house and my
23 neighborhood. The sound pollution from drums
24 pounding, band practice at the football field into
25 the late evenings, weekend stadium events with

1 blasting pep rally music and MC comments over loud
2 speakers cascading at us from up on top of the
3 hill. Light pollution from bright white football
4 field floodlights seen from my backyard, seen from
5 my house, seen from my bedroom. Now that 495A was
6 amended yet once again and further discussed this
7 afternoon, it's now a tripole cell tower with
8 three fiberglass boards. SHU has rescinded the
9 bell and the insignia due to the Town of
10 Fairfield's zoning restrictions against the bell
11 or the SHU's insignia on a sign.

12 You show my property as an abutter on
13 the maps. Check the map legends. We are affected
14 by any change to the football field on the hill,
15 the noise, the light in our bedroom windows. See,
16 we certainly do abut Sacred Heart University more
17 than just map wise.

18 Docket 495A proposing to relocate the
19 cell tower to a corner of the football field moves
20 it much close to Autumn Ridge Road high atop a
21 hill overlooking a treeless, open golf course
22 green, 100 feet tall now, the tower now atop a
23 hill. The tower is proposed to be located
24 according to the yet newest maps, today's maps,
25 1,405 feet from the street in front of my mailbox.

1 It's .266 miles, but it's really 1,302 feet, .24
2 miles, less than a quarter of a mile from our
3 bedroom windows at the back left corner of my
4 house based upon my measurement this afternoon. I
5 consider this measurement to be more accurate
6 being that's where I would see the cell tower from
7 my home.

8 To be clear, the topography where
9 Cellco proposes the tower location will make it
10 literally tower atop a hill overlooking our
11 properties and the golf course. If I can see the
12 football field poles, the light poles 80 feet high
13 further away from my house on the other side of
14 the football field, don't you think I'm going to
15 be able to see a 100-foot high cell tower adjacent
16 to the score board? That's equivalent to a
17 five-story building being built on a hill behind
18 my house.

19 It's now time, my time to vocally urge
20 the Siting Council to be sensitive to our
21 viewpoints as part of the entire Sacred Heart
22 University neighborhood, including us just less
23 than a quarter of a mile away below the hill in
24 eyeshot of the football field poles and any
25 further unattractive encroaching development --

1 (TIME ELAPSED)

2 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you,
3 Mr. Halpert. Unfortunately, your time has run
4 out, but thank you for your comments this evening.

5 We will now move on to Michael Katz
6 followed by Judy Katz.

7 Michael Katz.

8 MICHAEL KATZ: Hi, can you hear me?

9 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes.

10 MICHAEL KATZ: My name is Michael Katz,
11 and I reside at 310 Autumn Ridge Road in
12 Fairfield. From my property I can clearly see
13 buildings on the Sacred Heart east campus, the
14 temporary cell phone tower, and importantly,
15 lighting fixtures atop football field stanchions.
16 My property is indicated as an abutting property
17 to the site of the proposed permanent cell phone
18 tower as it is encircled by a double dashed line
19 on the map that is included in Exhibit 2 of the
20 February 11, 2022 motion. My property is
21 similarly indicated as abutting on maps included
22 in the petition for the temporary tower and in
23 Docket 495.

24 Despite being an abutting property,
25 I've never received formal notice of any plans to

1 erect a cell phone tower in my vicinity, and thus
2 have never previously had an opportunity to weigh
3 in on siting alternatives. I now voice my
4 objections to the proposed site. I object to the
5 construction of the cell phone tower at the
6 proposed site due to the negative impact on our
7 sight lines. I understand that the tower will be
8 100-feet high, which is higher than the lighting
9 fixtures atop the football field stanchions that
10 are already visible.

11 I note that the visual impact statement
12 included in the motion did not consider the view
13 from any property on Autumn Ridge Road and that
14 its conclusion regarding the lack of impact on
15 residents is highly misleading. I understand that
16 the cell phone tower will be disguised in the bell
17 tower; however, I don't believe that a potential
18 property buyer will be unaware of its function.
19 How could I explain why a bell tower was
20 constructed near the football field at the
21 periphery of the Sacred Heart campus versus being
22 in a central location.

23 I urge the Siting Council to consider
24 reducing the height of the cell phone tower as I
25 did not hear a compelling reason this afternoon

1 why the increased elevation of the proposed site
2 versus the Jefferson site required a 100-foot
3 height.

4 Having lived in my residence for over
5 15 years, we really enjoy being here and it is a
6 major asset of ours. We therefore request an
7 alternative site be considered and then a reduced
8 height be mandated if an alternative site is not
9 possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 JUDITH KATZ: Good evening. My name is
11 Judith Katz and I reside also at 310 Autumn Ridge
12 Road in Fairfield. We're four houses down from
13 216 Autumn Ridge Road which in Docket 495 was
14 identified as the nearest residence to the
15 proposed cell phone tower site. I'm here to speak
16 against relocating the cell phone tower to the
17 edge of the football field.

18 Currently the back of our home looks up
19 a hill to the football field at Sacred Heart where
20 I clearly view both the poles and the lights on
21 top that function at the football field as well as
22 the temporary cell phone tower that's nearby. The
23 new proposed cell phone tower on the edge of the
24 football field will be even higher at 100 feet and
25 will be clearly viewed from my house. The tree

1 heights between my home and the field do not
2 screen my view of the lights and will not screen a
3 proposed cell phone tower near the field.

4 I've been very frustrated by the lack
5 of communication concerning placement of the cell
6 phone tower over the past two years. I was never
7 officially notified of any proposals in spite of
8 exhibits in Docket 495 and Exhibit 2 in the
9 February 11th motion showing that my property
10 abuts the site. While the proposal states that
11 the cell phone tower will be disguised as a bell
12 tower, I believe it will be unsightly and
13 certainly from the pictures this afternoon.

14 In addition, it may have a billboard
15 and a two-story equipment building with a diesel
16 fueled generator on a concrete pad. I am
17 concerned about noise from this and additional
18 lights from any structures that could be heard and
19 seen from my home. A cell phone tower will
20 detract from the appearance that I can see from my
21 home and in my neighborhood.

22 I grew up in Fairfield, and it's a
23 great town. I urge you to find a better location
24 for this cell phone tower that will not impact
25 residential neighborhoods or my home. Thank you.

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mrs. Katz.
2 We'll now move to the next person in
3 the queue, Mohsen Sheikh. Mohsen?

4 MOHSEN SHEIKH: Hi, can you hear me?

5 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, I can. Thank
6 you.

7 MOHSEN SHEIKH: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman. I live on 351 Autumn Ridge Road.
9 And I'm really happy for Sacred Heart's growth in
10 the last five to eight years. My concern is the
11 tower and the visibility from my house. I live
12 right across from Marc's house, and I can see
13 exactly what Marc said which is the lights at
14 night and the noise that we currently receive when
15 the games are happening. And the tower is just
16 another thing that we have to see every day.

17 And I work in telecom, and I'm not very
18 comfortable with the radiation or how powerful
19 that tower is going to be if it's 5G. I don't
20 know what that tower -- I would like to know what
21 that tower has, is it 5G, what type of radiation
22 it's going to put out. I'm not really comfortable
23 with having that right in front of my eyesight.

24 The other thing with the growth for
25 Sacred Heart is the construction. So currently I

1 work from home. They are doing construction in
2 front of my house and then they're doing, there's
3 noise in the back. So it would be great if the
4 committee can find another place for this tower.
5 That would be fantastic because it's another thing
6 as the Sacred Heart is growing -- (AUDIO
7 INTERRUPTION) Thank you.

8 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Thank you
9 for your comments this evening.

10 Next on the list is Gustavo Pires.
11 Gustavo Pires. I don't see Gustavo on the screen
12 here so we'll come back.

13 Next on the list is Kirwin Michael
14 Irish. Mr. Irish.

15 KIRWIN MICHAEL IRISH: I don't want to
16 be redundant and repeat what Nancy and Marc had
17 said, Fran, Michael and Judy and Mo, but I am very
18 concerned about the location of this bell tower --
19 or excuse me, cell phone tower. What I have seen
20 and witnessed and heard from that direct line of
21 sight that I have to the football field is the
22 constant noise, the lights, the concerts morning,
23 afternoon and evening. Sometimes Sacred Heart
24 University doesn't extinguish the lights
25 overnight. And then as Mo pointed out, across the

1 street at the former General Electric site there's
2 a considerable amount of construction going on,
3 and very frequently there are lights left on there
4 overnight.

5 I don't have a lot of trust in Sacred
6 Heart University doing the right thing for its
7 neighbors. The lack of communication has been
8 terrible. I think if you compare the area from
9 1986 until now, there has been an
10 industrialization of this area without
11 consideration for people who live in residences.
12 I believe the construction of this tower will
13 result in more noise, possible environmental
14 damage to people, and will certainly have a
15 negative impact on our property values.

16 And I think that the actions as we have
17 seen over the past few months by the lack of
18 communication is a testimony to that. I think
19 there are other places on the campus you might
20 consider putting it, or you might in fact go over
21 to the Smith Richardson Golf Course which
22 certainly has a higher elevation than we're
23 talking about here and a clearer view down to Long
24 Island Sound and across to Long Island.

25 I respectfully submit my remarks, and I

1 hope you will take everything we say tonight into
2 very serious consideration. Thank you.

3 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Irish.
4 We'll now call upon Karen McCormack. Karen
5 McCormack.

6 KAREN McCORMACK: Yes, I am here.
7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking here as a
8 resident of Fairfield. I reside at 305 Winnepoge
9 Drive in Fairfield. And I'm also speaking on
10 behalf of constituents that I represent within the
11 Fairfield Representative Town Meeting District 2.
12 I've been contacted by a few residents from that
13 district in which I represent a section of
14 Fairfield on the legislative body for the Town of
15 Fairfield. And they reached out to me asking for
16 assistance to advocate for them on the concerns
17 that they had regarding both the process and the
18 ultimate placement of the temporary tower and then
19 what this Council is set to do, which is to set
20 the place for the permanent -- placement of the
21 permanent tower.

22 And my concerns surround what clearly
23 is depicted as abutting property owners in the
24 Autumn Ridge Road area. If you do look at the
25 maps and plot plans that were submitted, it

1 clearly indicates in the legend for the maps that
2 the Autumn Ridge Road property owners are clearly
3 abutting owners of the site where this is going to
4 be, at least depicted in the applicant's own
5 documents submitted. It does appear to me, as
6 I've come to understand, that the Jefferson Street
7 location is now off the table because the
8 neighbors on both Donna Drive and Weeping Willow
9 Lane objected to the placement of the tower on
10 Jefferson Street. And Jefferson Street actually
11 cuts through the separation between the university
12 property and those property owners.

13 Similarly, we have a situation where
14 the university property is set, and in between the
15 university property and Autumn Ridge Road there's
16 a strip a land, a fairly narrow strip of land
17 that's owned by the City of Bridgeport, I believe,
18 and the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course. So
19 similarly situated I think the Autumn Ridge
20 homeowners are and their exposure to the tower
21 both environmentally and physically and having to
22 deal with the site problems of having to look at
23 this thing from their backyards, from their home
24 windows, that they should have been taken into
25 account, their wishes, their desires, their

1 concerns, their input should have been taken into
2 account.

3 And because they were not properly
4 noticed, I respectfully request that the Siting
5 Council deny the placement of the permanent tower
6 in the location that they're seeking and I guess
7 begin the process over to properly notice these
8 folks so that they can have input, possibly hire
9 legal counsel to represent their interests and to
10 advocate for them directly. It's not fair that
11 they've been put behind the 8 ball and have had to
12 literally learn the Siting Council lingo and
13 language and what's involved here and spend hours
14 and hours and hours of their time as laypersons
15 trying to figure out how they can properly
16 advocate for themselves. I think they've done a
17 wonderful job, but I also think that they are due
18 and entitled to due process on this, and therefore
19 I ask the Council to respectfully decline the
20 application in this matter. Thank you very much.

21 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Ms.
22 McCormack. Thank you for your comments this
23 evening. We will now go back and see if Sara
24 Gravinese is available. Sarah?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. MORISSETTE: And we'll now see if
2 Gustavo Pires is available. Gustavo?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. MORISSETTE: We'll do it one more
5 time. Sara Gravinese, 178 Autumn Ridge Road. And
6 Gustavo Pires, 268 Autumn Ridge Road.

7 (No response.)

8 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, everyone,
9 for providing comments this evening. They were
10 very much appreciated.

11 The Council announces that the
12 evidentiary record in this matter will remain open
13 for the Certificate Holder's submission of
14 Late-File exhibits requested by the Council during
15 the hearing session this afternoon. A copy of the
16 Late-Filed exhibits will be available on the
17 Council's Docket No. 495A webpage.

18 Please note that anyone who has not
19 become a party or intervenor, but who desires to
20 make his or her views known to the Council, may
21 file written statements with the Council until the
22 public comment record is closed.

23 Copies of the transcript of this
24 hearing will be deposited in the Fairfield, Easton
25 and Trumbull Town Clerk's Offices and the

1 Bridgeport City Clerk's Office for the convenience
2 of the public.

3 I hereby declare this hearing
4 adjourned. Thank you again, everyone, for your
5 participation. Have a good evening.

6 (Whereupon, the public comment session
7 concluded at 7:10 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 33 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 before the CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL of the
7 REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION IN RE: DOCKET NO.
8 495A, CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS
9 CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
10 PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND
11 OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED
12 AT 5151 PARK AVENUE, FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT,
13 Reopening of this Certificate based on changed
14 conditions pursuant to Connecticut General
15 Statutes, Section 4-181a(b), which was held before
16 JOHN MORISSETTE, PRESIDING OFFICER, on March 31,
17 2022.

18
19
20 

21 -----
22 Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
23 Court Reporter
24 BCT REPORTING, LLC
25 55 WHITING STREET, SUITE 1A
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06062