

Witness Statement
Lois Gillern
20 Merwin Street

No public notice given to residents prior to lease being signed

The only notice of a public meeting with regard to the cell tower was placed by the Legal and Administrative committee of the Town Council, buried in a document on the town website. Therefore only Town Council members were aware of the public meeting. Not one resident was at the meeting. I first was made aware of something going on when I witnessed the initial balloon floating in March 2010. Then there was a second floating. Later that week, my daughter was at a party, and a Trumbull police officer asked her if her parents were angry about the cell tower. I went to the Police Station to ask if this was true that one was being built, and they would not speak to me. From there I went to Town Hall where both Fred Baisch of Planning and Zoning and Tim Herbst First Selectman told me they knew nothing about it. A week after that, I received a call back from Fred Baisch who told me that T-Mobile was building a cell tower at the police station. April 27th I wrote a letter to my neighbors and passed it out to 75 homes telling them about the situation. Shortly after that I received a letter from the Police Union alerting residents to the fact that a cell tower was to be put up at the Police Station.

Formation of CATT

There were two meetings at our Trumbull library organized by 2 Town Council members—one of whom was the majority leader. Other Town Council members were also present at these meetings. The first meeting was to inform residents about the cell tower. The second meeting discussed the cell tower issue further, and encouraged residents to form a committee to fight it. A core group of residents was formed (CATT) and has continued to be involved since that time.

Property devaluation and impact to neighborhood

My husband and I were first time home buyers in 2005 after renting for 18 years in Trumbull. We felt confident in Trumbull having stable property values and strict Planning and Zoning laws. When we purchased our home we agreed to live next to municipal property, the Police Station, alongside which was a modest radio tower mostly shielded by trees. That is entirely different from the proposed cell tower which would be more than 50% taller--as tall as a 15-story building--using a monopole construction 4 feet in diameter.

All the main (working and recreational) areas of our home face the back of the Police Station. There are two sets of sliding glass doors and four skylights. The view will affect our master bedroom, kitchen, home office, guest bathrooms, deck and backyard. The proposed tower will overtake the view from each and every space of my home.

There is no way to avoid the tower. Merwin/Koger Streets are a dead end. You need to drive past the Police Station to get anywhere on those two roads. You will pass by there every time you leave and come back to your home. This will affect approximately 50 homes.

The area is densely residential--2,221 registered addresses within one mile. Homes are located on all four sides of the tower, some within 168 feet.

The impact is already being felt by persons trying to sell their homes in the area. There is a home for sale now on Edison Road that could not be sold this summer due to the cell tower. Now it has been taken over by a relocation company, and they also have been unable to sell the home. The price has been dropped several times.

Undue hardship on residents of our neighborhood

I feel that it is unfair that the children of our neighborhood should have to grow up next to an industrial, commercial structure, unlike other neighborhoods in Trumbull. The school bus stops directly across from the proposed site. Noise from the generators will be a factor. There is a home directly across from the proposed cell tower. The owner came here and then brought his wife here from Syria to start a better life in the United States. Now he is losing his investment and subjecting his three school age children to this ugliness.

The residents of the area consist of the backbone of Trumbull—middle class: nurses, teachers, doctors, business owners and retirees. It is extremely unfair that this sector of the town should have to bear the brunt of property loss. Especially for the elderly that have lived there for many years (some for 60 years) and don't deserve to have their property devalued. Several were the original homes on the road when it was first paved. These men and women that have worked hard their whole lives don't deserve such poor treatment, having their hard earned investments taken away at this stage of their lives. Young families also make up our neighborhood, and they are having a hard enough time making ends meet without undue hardship being put on them.

Change the quality of life

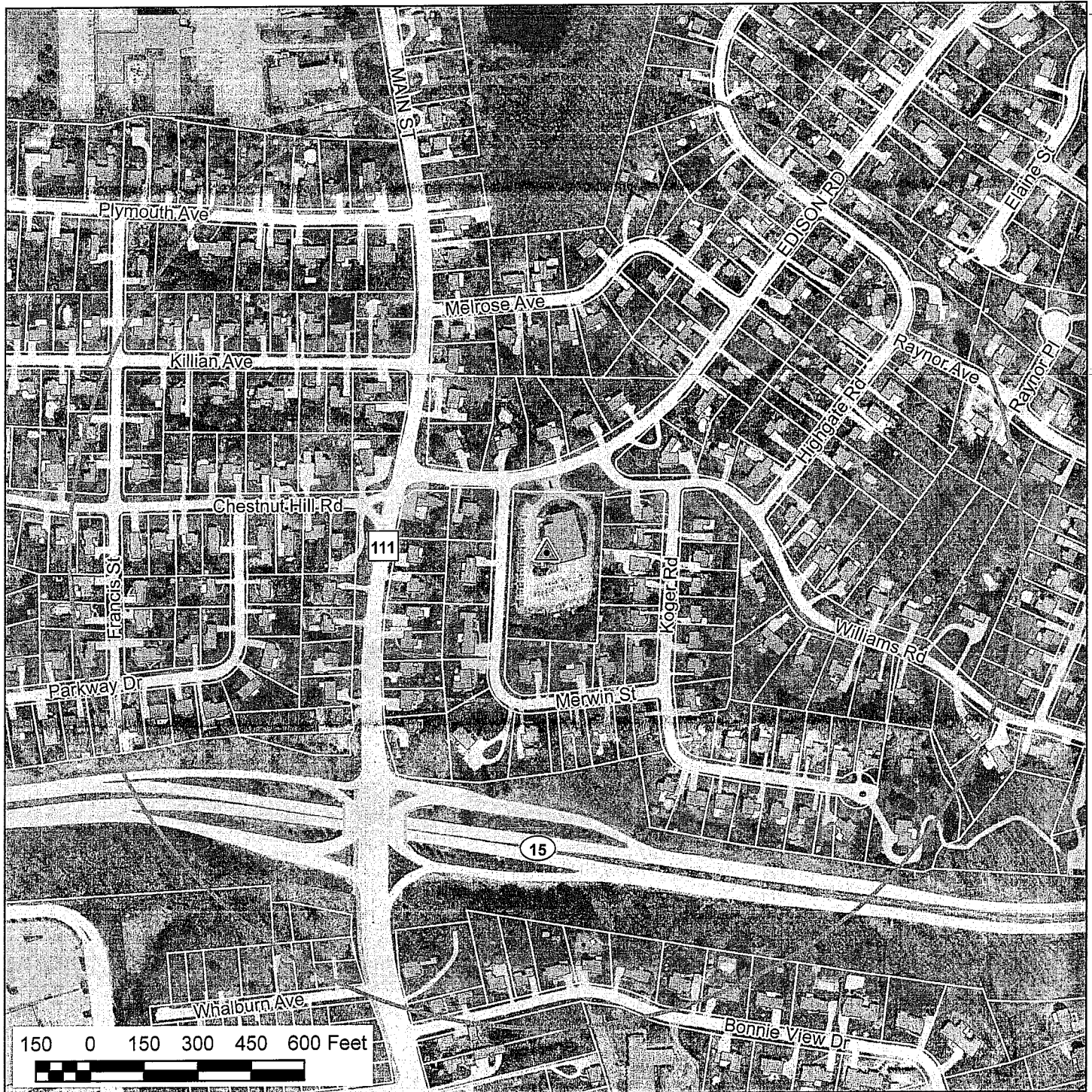
It is a neighborhood in every sense of the word. People walk their dogs around the loop past the Police Station, bring meals to the sick, help pick up children from soccer games, and have block parties. An industrial, commercial-looking tower sticking up prominently in all views from our homes will lend an entirely different vibe to the whole neighborhood. Whereas we have enjoyed our yards and decks and love to look up at the blue sky, now the sky will be literally filled with antennae. My 97 year old mother does not want to look out her glass doors from her bedroom at an ugly cell tower in her last days.

Inappropriate

The police and fire in Fairfield, Westport and Milford all have their cell towers. The difference is that they are all located on the Post Road—commercial districts--not in a densely populated residential area. The concept of placing a tower in our neighborhood is inappropriate. There are dangers from falling ice, and there is an inadequate fall zone. People will be walking directly underneath it. The elementary school bus stop is directly across from the proposed base of the tower. Not only do these children from Trumbull have to look at it from their homes, but they need to walk within harms way of it. T-Mobile is building an ice bridge to protect their equipment. What about our school children?

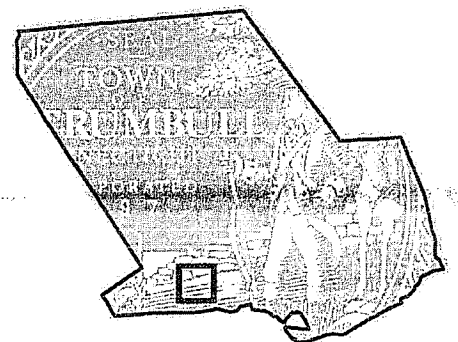
Cell Tower — Quarter Mile

Town of Trumbull, CT



According to data from the 2010 Census, there are over 450 people within one-quarter mile of the proposed cell tower. This area of Trumbull is one of the most densely populated areas of town.

According to data from the Trumbull GIS, there are 212 buildings and 246 parcels within one-quarter mile of the proposed cell tower.



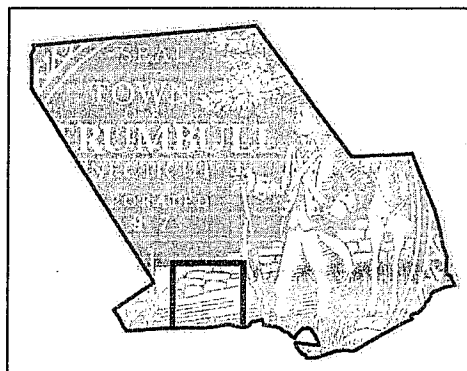
Cell Tower — Half Mile

Town of Trumbull, CT



According to data from the 2010 Census, there are over 1800 people within one-half mile of the proposed cell tower. This area of Trumbull is one of the most densely populated areas of town.

According to data from the Trumbull GIS, there are 729 buildings and 795 parcels within one-half mile of the proposed cell tower.



Lois Gillern
Lois Gillern

The above signed, Lois Gillern, being known to me or after satisfactory proof of identification, personally appeared before me and verified the above prefiled testimony for the Connecticut Siting Council dated 11/23/11 is true and accurate and that they adopted it as their free act and deed on the 23rd day of November, 2011.

CT Notary My Commission Expires/ Connecticut Commissioner of the Superior Court

[Signature] 11/23/11
(signature/date)

John C. Vigor

My Commission Expires May 31, 2016

