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April 25, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL



Attorney Melanie Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

ORIGINAL

Re: Docket No. 471

Dear Attorney Bachman:

Enclosed please find an original and 15 copies of the pre-filed testimony of Ms. Patricia Sorrentino, a party in this proceeding. Ms. Sorrentino will be the only witness on her behalf and at this time offers no further exhibits.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this submission. Thank you for your consideration.

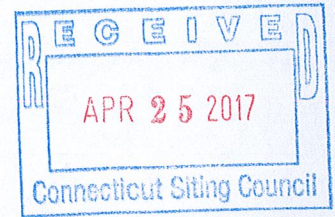
Respectfully yours,

By: 
Burton B. Cohen
Attorney for Patricia Sorrentino

Enclosures

cc: Service List – Docket No. 471 (w/enc)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL



IN RE: : DOCKET NO. 471
:
APPLICATION OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP :
D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A :
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL :
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR :
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND :
OPERATION OF A WIRELESS :
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT :
208 KIRK ROAD (a/k/a 1075 PARADISE :
AVENUE) IN HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT : APRIL 25, 2017

ORIGINAL

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF PATRICIA SORRENTINO

Ms. Sorrentino, please explain to the Connecticut Siting Council your specific interest in this proceeding:

I have lived at 46 Country Club Lane in Hamden since 1986, nearly 31 years. My husband and I built the house. I raised a family there, and six years ago my husband passed away of a brain tumor. My children are now all adults, although my youngest still resides in the house. He is a firefighter for the Town of Hamden.

My home not only abuts the property where the tower is proposed to be sited, it is the closest residence to the proposed tower site. In fact, the tower site can be viewed directly from my bedroom window.

Obviously, you have concerns about the proposed site as a telecommunications tower facility.

Yes, I certainly do, and many of my neighbors also share those concerns. First, the tower is proposed in a residential neighborhood and is zoned as such by the Town of Hamden. Second, the tower, if approved, will be very close to not only my property line, but also to my house. Third, although the proposed tower site is heavily wooded, it is not in an isolated area and is often walked through by many in the neighborhood and also serves as a play area for families and children, not to mention the not-too-occasional golfer who makes an errant shot into the woods. Fourth, the area serves as a home for many types of wild animals. Finally, there will be far too many safety issues that will be caused by the placement of such a facility in the area.

Let's take each of those concerns. Explain about the residential nature of the neighborhood.

Although it was thirty-one years ago when the Sorrentino family moved into our home, we loved the location on Country Club Lane, which of course is in residential area of Town. The Sorrentino home is just downward of the cul de sac and on the same plane as the proposed tower site.

There are no commercial uses in the area, unless you consider the Laurel View Country Club golf course as commercial. It is a pure residential neighborhood. The area where the tower is proposed to be constructed is heavily wooded. The destruction of approximately 30 trees (the application is somewhat ambiguous about the number of trees that will be "removed", which is the term Verizon uses) alone will destroy the ecology and scenic beauty of the area where we live. There can be no doubt that erecting a tower, along with the devastation to the property where it will be placed, will adversely affect property values and also diminish the tax base of the Town. I am not a real estate appraiser, nor do I have any expertise in the area of property values. But I have read on the Internet that property values can be diminished by up to thirty percent (30%) by locating a telecommunications smack dab in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The Town of Hamden's residential zoning designation for the area is proof enough that this is not an area to place such an obtrusive structure as a tower, along with the fenced in compound and access road. The Town would never allow this to occur if it had the final say, and I don't see why the Siting Council would permit such an inappropriate site to be approved.

Please talk about the proximity to your property line and your house.

My house is about forty (40) feet from the property line nearest to the proposed tower site, which presents obvious serious safety concerns. The proximity to a telecommunications tower site will have a direct and significantly adverse impact on the value of my home. I am also concerned about both the visual and scenic issues that will arise from the tower, associated equipment and compound. From my bedroom window, the tower will be directly in my view, replacing the natural beauty of the woods that surrounds the small tree farm on the lessor's property. If the tower were to fall due to heavy winds or extreme weather conditions, the potential impact on trees falling on my property and my house would be a very scary proposition. I am certain that my home property insurance rates will increase should increase if the tower is constructed. When you consider that there could be a massive propane or diesel fuel tank in the compound, the danger level is quite frightening. It is difficult for me to understand why a company the size of Verizon would ever choose to place such a facility so close to a person's house.

Please tell us about the area where the tower site is proposed to be constructed.

The heavily wooded area is undeveloped, but it is one that is heavily used. The site area serves as a buffer between the Laurel View golf course and several houses in the neighborhood. As the site area directly abuts the Laurel View golf course, I can imagine some golfers might find the tower, if approved and constructed, to be somewhat of a distraction. More importantly, golfers are often in that area looking for balls. I can tell you that my family and other neighborhood families often walk through the wooded area, where the tower is to be built. And children can frequently be seen playing in the woods near and where the tower site is proposed. I know that the property owner and Verizon are focusing only on the commercial use of the wooded area, but it serves both a scenic and recreational purpose for the entire neighborhood. What measures will Verizon and the Siting Council take to ensure the safety of children and to prevent this beautiful property from turning into an attractive nuisance? I have heard of at least one instance in a nearby town where young people, curious about these tower site compounds, busted through the fencing to enter the site. Although that risk could also occur in a commercial area, it seems more likely to be a concern in an area that has been used as a neighborhood play space. The bottom line is that the site area is not isolated from homes, children and others who use it for recreation.

Please tell us about the wildlife that you have personally observed in the wooded area where the tower, its compound and the access road are proposed to be sited.

Although the wooded area is not large, I have observed red foxes, a bobcat, red tail hawks and deer. Just last month, I took a photograph of this red tail hawk.



This area serves a small nature preserve for many animals. The tower site as proposed will likely cause the displacement of these wild animals and have a significant adverse impact on the ecology of the area.

Finally, please explain your concerns about the safety issues.

I understand that concerns about radio frequency emissions are governed by federal law and not within the Siting Council's authority to address differently. Nevertheless, for the record, given the proximity to the Sorrentino home, it will be quite discerning to have a cell tower so close to my home for that reason alone. I am also quite worried about the tower, if approved, falling in extreme weather conditions in the direction of my property; even if it didn't reach my property, it could fell a tree and limbs that could reach the Sorrentino home. I am also quite concerned the dangers associated with of fuel storage being placed on the property in a residential area. And won't there be safety and truck traffic issues for the construction for such a tower, with the proposed tree destruction, all to be accomplished in a highly residential area of Hamden? Also, the tower compound will undoubtedly become an attractive play area for children seeking a challenge to climb the fencing to get nearer to the tower itself. Even assuming Verizon Wireless were to provide a set of keys to the Town for emergency purposes, in a time-sensitive emergency situation that may not be sufficient.

Is there anything else you wish to bring to the attention of the Connecticut Siting Council?

There are a few related issues that I hope the Siting Council explores during the hearings. It is my strong concern that Verizon Wireless may not have been particularly forthcoming about its site selection process. The proposed site is identical to the one that AT&T negotiated several years ago but did not pursue. It seems that the other "alternate sites" that are identified by Verizon are just formulaic addresses none of which were deemed acceptable, according to the application. Why should they be, given that the lessor had already demonstrated a willingness to lease the property to AT&T, which coincidentally now doesn't need the site for its coverage. I am extremely concerned that the proposed tower location had more to do with the lessor's preferences rather than Verizon's needs. Finally, it will be obvious during the site visit that the proposed site area is at a substantially lower elevation than if it were on other portions of the lessor's property, specifically closer to the lessor's house.

What would you like to see as the outcome of this proceeding?

Verizon Wireless misfired when it selected this area for a telecommunications tower. Even if the Siting Council accepts Verizon's representations about the need for the facility, the tower does not need to be located on this property. I would like the Siting Council to require Verizon to go back to the drawing board and find a site in a more suitable location, preferably one used for commercial or governmental purposes. Based on the Application, Verizon has many options, but it only wants the Siting Council to approve the single site choice that it deems optimal. However, Verizon should not be allowed to limit its site exploration solely on the "one hundred percent (100%) rule and use that as justification for a site that is objectively unacceptable. If another, more

appropriate site meets a significant percentage of Verizon's needs, that site should be proposed by Verizon. That is why I asked the question in interrogatory number 13 about what percentage of Verizon's needs would not be met in each of the rejected sites. I am optimistic that the Siting Council will recognize the inappropriateness of the proposed site during its site visit and public hearing on May 2, 2017.

Does that complete your prefiled testimony?

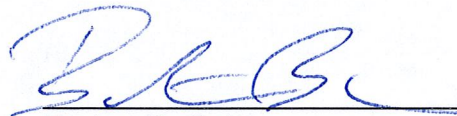
Yes, it does. Thank you.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that on the 25th day of April the foregoing Cover Letter and Pre-filed Testimony of Patricia Sorrentino was sent via United States mail, postage prepaid to the following parties of record:

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Burton B. Cohen