

In The Matter Of:
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

DOCKET NO. 472
June 15, 2017

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 472

Application from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon
Wireless for a Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility and Public Need for the
Construction, Maintenance and Operation of a
Telecommunication Facility Located at 541
Broadbridge Road in Bridgeport, Connecticut

Public Hearing held at the Bridgeport City
Hall, Council Chambers, 45 Lyon Terrace,
Bridgeport, Connecticut, Thursday, June 15, 2017,
beginning at 7:00 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

ROBIN STEIN, Chairman

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

2 Council Members:

3 JAMES J. MURPHY,
4 Vice Chairman

5
6 ROBERT HANNON,
7 DEEP Designee

8
9 ROBERT SILVESTRI
10 DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS
11 DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

12
13 Council Staff:

14 MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,
15 Executive Director and
16 Staff Attorney

17
18 MICHAEL PERRONE
19 Siting Analyst

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23
24
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1 A p p e a r a n c e s:(cont'd)

2 For CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS:

3 ROBINSON & COLE, LLP

4 280 Trumbull Street

5 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597

6 BY: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, ladies
2 and gentleman. I'd like to call to order the
3 meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council, today
4 Thursday, June 15, 2017, 7 p.m.

5 My name is Robin Stein. I'm
6 Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. Other
7 members of the Council present are Senator James
8 Murphy, our Vice Chairman; Mr. Hannon, the
9 designee from the Department of Energy and
10 Environmental Protection; Mr. Silvestri; and
11 Dr. Klemens.

12 Members of the staff present are
13 our Executive Director Melanie Bachman; and
14 Michael Perrone, our siting analyst.

15 This is a continuation of a public
16 hearing that began at 3 p.m. this afternoon.
17 Copies of the hearing program and the Council's
18 citizen guide to Siting Council procedures are
19 available for members of the public.

20 This hearing is held pursuant to
21 the provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut
22 General Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
23 Procedure Act upon an application from Cellco
24 Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a
25 certificate of environmental compatibility and

1 public need for the construction, maintenance and
2 operation of a telecommunications facility located
3 at 541 Broadbridge Road, Bridgeport, Connecticut.
4 This application was received by the Council on
5 March 24, 2017.

6 This application is also governed
7 by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which is
8 administered by the Federal Communications
9 Commission. This act prohibits the Council from
10 considering the health effects of radiofrequency
11 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
12 extent the emissions from towers are within the
13 federal acceptable safe limits standards, which
14 standard is also followed by the State Department
15 of Public Health.

16 The federal act also prohibits this
17 Council from discriminating between and amongst
18 providers of functionally equivalent services.
19 This means that if one carrier already provides
20 service for an area other carriers have the right
21 to compete and provide service in the same area.

22 The applicant published notice of
23 the filing of application to the Council in the
24 Connecticut Post on March 22nd and March 23, 2017.
25 The Council's legal notice of the date and time of

1 this hearing was published in the Connecticut Post
2 on May 2, 2017. Upon this Council's request the
3 applicant erected a sign at the proposed site so
4 as to inform the public of the name of the
5 applicant, type of facility, the hearing date and
6 location and the contact information of the
7 Council.

8 This afternoon members of the
9 Council, staff and public personally conducted a
10 field review of the proposed site in order to
11 observe firsthand the potential effects of the
12 proposal.

13 This hearing session tonight has
14 been reserved for the public to make short
15 statements into the record. These public
16 statements are not subject to questions from the
17 parties or counsel, and members of the public
18 making statements may not ask questions of the
19 Council. These statements will become part of the
20 record for Council consideration.

21 A sign-up sheet is available, for
22 those who would like to participate, next to the
23 podium. I already have one name here.

24 As a reminder to all,
25 off-the-record communication with a member of the

1 Council or member of the Council's staff upon the
2 merits of this application is prohibited by law.

3 I wish to note for those who are
4 here and for the benefit of your friends and
5 neighbors who are unable to join us for the public
6 comment session, that you or they may send written
7 statements to the Council within 30 days of the
8 date hereof, and such written statements will be
9 given the same weight as if spoken at the hearing.

10 Again, please be advised that the
11 Council is here to listen. We cannot answer
12 questions at this time.

13 A verbatim transcript will be made
14 of this hearing and deposited at the Bridgeport
15 City Clerk's office and at Trumbull and Stratford
16 Town Clerk's offices for the convenience of the
17 public.

18 Before I call on the members of the
19 public to make a statement, I request the
20 applicant to make a very brief presentation
21 describing the facility.

22 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you.

23 Again, my name is Doug Roberts.
24 I'm an architect at Hudson Design Group. I'll go
25 over the project.

1 We are proposing a 100-foot
2 flagpole in this, the location right here. This
3 is the building itself, the existing building, the
4 shopping center. Our access will be along the
5 alleyway to the east of the building.

6 Our equipment sits at grade, and it
7 will be behind a chain-link fence, as shown here.
8 We have a modest sized compound, 8 by 19, that
9 will hold our radios and generators, backup
10 generator. And we're doing some landscaping,
11 slash, civil work to put a little retaining wall
12 so that we can continue to have access to the rear
13 of the building.

14 The hundred foot flagpole will have
15 two arrays of Verizon Wireless antennas, as shown
16 on this, at 92 and 82 feet with an area below for
17 additional antennas when deemed needed.

18 And that's the project.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: I have three names,
20 but I only see two people -- well, maybe there are
21 three.

22 The first one, Helen Olgachosak.

23 A VOICE: (Unintelligible.)

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, she may have.
25 She may have been here, but she didn't -- she put

1 her name down. This is the part for the public,
2 so -- but she's not here, I guess.

3 A VOICE: She was still here at
4 three clock. I'm surprised she's not here.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Maria Pereira. If
6 you go to the podium please, and spell your last
7 name, please, for the stenographer.

8 MARIA PEREIRA: My last name is
9 Pereira, P-e-r-e-i-r-a. Chairman Stein and
10 members of the Council, thank you for coming to
11 Bridgeport today. I would say, though, it's
12 really important when you come for a public
13 hearing that impacts a specific community, that
14 you hold your hearing in that community.

15 You're in downtown Bridgeport. We
16 have many clubs and we have the Beardsley Zoo. We
17 could have held this hearing right in our
18 district, because we certainly have many elderly
19 people, disabled people who would find it very
20 difficult to get into downtown Bridgeport. So you
21 know, I think it's important when you hold a
22 hearing like this, you actually hold it in a
23 community that's directly impacted.

24 I am a school board member. I'm
25 also the 138th District leader. We have ten

1 districts in Bridgeport and I'm one of the elected
2 district leaders, and this is being placed in my
3 district. And so we're a very active town
4 committee.

5 And we knocked on over a hundred
6 doors and spoke -- well over a hundred doors and
7 we actually spoke with 97 homeowners or residents
8 directly in the streets adjacent to the shopping
9 plaza. And although some people were ambivalent
10 over this potential project, the vast majority are
11 completely opposed to it.

12 And I can tell you on our school
13 board we actually have T-Mobile who wants to
14 install a cell tower on one of our schools and
15 we've been debating it for months. Every single
16 staff member in that school voted unanimously.
17 They don't want it, and the vast majority of
18 parents don't want it.

19 And clearly you know there's a lot
20 of debate and different studies about the health
21 risks associated with these cellphone towers. And
22 you are putting -- the cellphone tower would be
23 approximately four blocks from a pre-K through 8
24 elementary school that has 350 students in it.

25 And so I can tell you, I think as a

1 town committee member my job is not to sell a
2 project or work against it. My job is to share
3 information with my constituents and have them
4 make an educated decision about whether they want
5 that project or not.

6 And what I can say to you without
7 question today is that our community does not want
8 this cellphone tower in our community. We are
9 concerned about potential health risks and we are
10 completely opposed to it.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 MARIA PEREIRA: Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Just one comment.

14 The site for the actual hearing is determined by
15 the town or city where we hold the hearing. We
16 don't -- so in other words, we asked the City of
17 Bridgeport and they were the -- the city was
18 determined that --

19 MARIA PEREIRA: I understand that.
20 We just had somebody down here for a huge state
21 improvement on this Main Street, and they did the
22 exact same thing. And so what you're doing is --
23 it's not you per se, but this is the City of
24 Bridgeport. So you know we're not the most
25 ethical and honest and forthright city in the

1 state of Connecticut.

2 And I will tell you I'm on the
3 Democratic town committee, not because I want to
4 be like them. I want to be the opposite of them.
5 We actually have honest ethical members of the
6 community who have values, morals and principles.

7 So I'm just saying going forward,
8 whether it's this community or any other
9 community, if there's sites available in the
10 actual community -- we do have the Beardsley Zoo.
11 We have the German club that has existed for
12 almost a hundred years. There are three that
13 are incredibly cost effective.

14 I wouldn't pay for this space, but
15 if you really want to hear from the community you
16 will hold the public hearing in the community, not
17 in Downtown Bridgeport, which is very challenging
18 for many people in our community. That's all I'm
19 saying.

20 That's exactly what they said the
21 last time we came. Well, the City of Bridgeport
22 told us to hold it here, and I'm saying to you
23 whether it's here or anywhere else, you know,
24 maybe you push back a little bit and see what's
25 the space available that's closest within the

1 community that's going to be directly impacted by
2 this project. That's just a recommendation.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

4 MARIA PEREIRA: So again. We're
5 completely opposed to this. I just want to be
6 clear on that. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know if I am
8 pronouncing it right. Nessah Smith.

9 NESSAH J. SMITH: My name is Nessah
10 J. Smith and I am the councilperson for the
11 District 138. I received a letter from an elderly
12 gentleman who is 94 years old, but he's just a
13 human being like everyone else. He lives with his
14 daughter.

15 And accordingly, the cell tower is
16 right -- according to the top of his house,
17 because he lives at 1056 Huntington Turnpike and I
18 guess where it's going to be -- it's in close
19 proximity. So if you don't mind, I will read a
20 letter from him. He's concerned about the
21 property value, the effects of quality of life,
22 the generator.

23 That according to him, he got
24 information it's very noisy. And he doesn't think
25 it's fitting for the area and he's wondering if

1 there isn't any other location you could have
2 found to, you know, to put up the cell tower.
3 However, there is a letter.

4 I am writing to you to make you
5 aware of a proposal to install a 100-foot cell
6 tower with a gas-fired generator practically in my
7 backyard. This is the last thing in this whole
8 wide world I would need at this stage of my life.
9 All I want to do is to live in peace with my
10 daughter.

11 I'm 94 years old, and with the help
12 of the good Lord, probably a few more years. We
13 don't need a 100-foot tower hovering over me and
14 my family every day, and a gas generator that
15 could go off any time of the day or night. The
16 noise level and the exhaust fumes, unbelievable.

17 The proposal actually presents a
18 health hazard and also creates an attraction for
19 the undesirables that hang around in the back of
20 the stores. And he is referring to -- I need your
21 help to reject this proposal in the most
22 unimaginable area that anyone could see. With all
23 of the wooden and isolated areas in the near
24 vicinity you mean to tell me the only area
25 suitable for this proposal is practically in my

1 backyard?

2 At my age this proposal has made a
3 nervous wreck out of me. It is not the way I wish
4 to spend my last few years. And it's signed
5 Harold Gabianelli.

6 Thank you for listening.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

8 The Council has also received
9 letters from this gentleman. The councilmembers,
10 we have also received letters -- I'm just -- from
11 the same gentleman.

12 NESSAH J. SMITH: But I just wanted
13 to be here to represent him.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: No. Thank you very
15 much.

16 Okay. I don't see anyone else, so
17 I would just like to say before closing this
18 hearing, the Siting Council announces that briefs
19 and proposed findings of fact may be filed with
20 the Council by the party no later than July 17,
21 2017.

22 The submission of briefs of
23 proposed findings of fact are not required by the
24 Council. Rather we leave it to the choice of the
25 party. Again, anyone who has not become a party,

1 but who desires to make his or her views known to
2 the Council may file written statements with the
3 Council within 30 days of the date hereof. The
4 Council will issue draft findings of fact and
5 thereafter the party may identify errors or
6 inconsistencies between the Council's draft
7 findings of fact and the record.

8 And copies of the transcript of the
9 hearing will be filed at the Bridgeport City
10 Clerk's office and the Trumbull and Stratford Town
11 Clerk's office. I hereby declare this hearing
12 adjourned.

13 Thank you both for your
14 participation, and drive home safely.

15
16 (Whereupon, the above proceedings
17 were concluded at 7:16 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 16 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original verbatim notes taken
6 of the Public Hearing in Re: Docket No. 472,
7 APPLICATION FROM 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 TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY LOCATED AT 541
12 BROADBRIDGE ROAD IN BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, which
13 was held before ROBIN STEIN, Chairman, at the
14 Bridgeport City Hall, Council Chambers, 45 Lyon
15 Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut, June 15, 2017.
16
17
18

19 _____
Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857

20 Notary Public

21 BCT Reporting, LLC

22 PO Box 1774

23 Bristol, Connecticut 06011

24 My Commission Expires: 6/30/2020
25