



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Web Site: [portal.ct.gov/csc](http://portal.ct.gov/csc)

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

September 29, 2023

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.  
Robinson & Cole LLP  
280 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-3597  
[kbaldwin@rc.com](mailto:kbaldwin@rc.com)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1584** – Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a small wireless telecommunications facility and associated equipment on the roof of a City-owned, multiuse building located at 1212 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

At a public meeting held on September 28, 2023, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the above-referenced proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50k, would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need with the following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. RF access restriction and caution signage shall be installed at the site in compliance with FCC guidance;
3. Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable;
4. Install a battery backup power cabinet, as proposed;
5. The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities;
6. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;
7. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the City of Hartford;

8. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed **along with a representative photograph of the project.**
9. Any nonfunctioning antenna and associated antenna mounting equipment on this facility owned and operated by Verizon Wireless shall be removed within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function;
10. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v; and
11. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred or partially transferred, provided both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee are current with payments to the Council for their respective annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v. The Council shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer. Both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee shall provide the Council with a written agreement as to the entity responsible for any quarterly assessment charges under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v(b)(2) that may be associated with this facility, including contact information for the individual acting on behalf of the transferee.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition dated July 13, 2023 and additional correspondence dated August 31, 2023.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/ANM/dll

Enclosure: Staff Report dated September 28, 2023

c: The Honorable Luke Bronin, Mayor, City of Hartford ([luke.bronin@hartford.gov](mailto:luke.bronin@hartford.gov))

STATE OF CONNECTICUT )

: ss. Southington, Connecticut                      September 29, 2023

COUNTY OF HARTFORD )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1584 issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

ATTEST:



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Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council

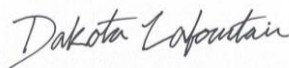
STATE OF CONNECTICUT )

: ss. New Britain, Connecticut                      September 29, 2023

COUNTY OF HARTFORD )

I certify that a copy of the Connecticut Siting Council Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1584 has been forwarded by Certified First Class Return Receipt Requested mail, on September 29, 2023, to each party and intervenor, or its authorized representative, as listed on the attached service list, dated July 14, 2023.

ATTEST:



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Dakota LaFountain  
Clerk Typist  
Connecticut Siting Council

**LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS**  
**SERVICE LIST**

<b>Status Granted</b>	<b>Document Service</b>	<b>Status Holder (name, address &amp; phone number)</b>	<b>Representative (name, address &amp; phone number)</b>
<b>Petitioner</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail	Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless	Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq. Robinson & Cole LLP 280 Trumbull Street Hartford, CT 06103-3597 Phone (860) 275-8200 <a href="mailto:kbaldwin@rc.com">kbaldwin@rc.com</a>



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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**Petition No. 1584**  
**Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless**  
**Small Wireless Facility**  
**1212 Main Street**  
**Hartford, Connecticut**

**Staff Report**  
**September 28, 2023**

### Notice

On July 13, 2023, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a small wireless telecommunications facility to be located at 1212 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut (Petition or Project).

The small wireless facility would be installed across three ballast mounts on the roof of The Pennant at North Crossing (The Pennant), a multi-use building owned by the City of Hartford (City).<sup>1</sup> It would provide network capacity to the surrounding area including Dunkin Park baseball stadium.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40, on or about July 13, 2023, Verizon provided notice to abutting property owners and the City. No comments were received.

On July 17, 2023, the Council sent correspondence to the City stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the City to contact the Council with any questions or comments by August 13, 2023. No comments were received.

The Council issued interrogatories to Verizon on August 15, 2023. Verizon provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on August 31, 2023.

Pursuant to CGS §4-176(e) of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, an administrative agency is required to take an action on a petition within 60 days of receipt. On August 31, 2023, pursuant to CGS §4-176(e), the Council voted to set the date by which to render a decision on the Petition as no later than October 12, 2023, which is within the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i) and is the 90-day decision deadline for a small wireless facility on a new structure under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations.

### Jurisdiction

Pursuant to CGS §16-50i(a)(6), the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over telecommunications towers, including associated equipment, owned or operated by the state, a public service company or a certified telecommunications provider or used in a cellular system.

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<sup>1</sup> One ballast mount would be located in the southeastern portion of the roof and two ballast mounts would be located in the northern portion of the roof.

Under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-2a (30), “Tower” means a structure, whether free standing or attached to a building or another structure, that has a height greater than its diameter and that is high relative to its surroundings, or that is used to support antennas for sending or receiving radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, which is or is to be:

- a) **used principally to support one or more antennas** for receiving or sending radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, and
- b) owned or operated by the state, a public service company as defined in Section 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or a certified telecommunications provider, or used in a cellular system, as defined in Section 16-50i(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes. (Emphasis added).

The 3 proposed ballast mounts will be used to support 18 antennas on The Pennant building roof. They would be owned and operated by Verizon, a certified telecommunications provider. Thus, the Council has jurisdiction over the proposed small wireless facility.

The FCC specifically defined “small wireless facility” in its 2018 Report and Order as facilities that meet any of the following conditions:

1. Mounted on structures 50 feet or less in height including their antennas; or
2. Mounted on structures no more than 10 percent taller than other adjacent structures; or
3. Do not extend existing structures on which they are located to a height of more than 50 feet or by more than 10 percent, whichever is greater.

The proposed ballast mounts do not extend the existing structure on which they are located more than 10 percent. They do not extend above the height of the tallest portion of The Pennant roof. The Project is a “small wireless facility” under the FCC definition.

### **Project Development**

The Project is needed to improve Verizon’s network capacity in and around Dunkin Park baseball stadium. In addition, the proposed facility would provide enhanced coverage to the areas along Main Street, Albany Avenue (Route 44), Windsor Street, Trumbull Street and portions of the Interstate 84 (I-84) and I-91 highways. The proposed facility would provide wireless service in Verizon’s 700/850/1900/2100/3600/3700 MHz frequency ranges. The facility would be capable of providing 5G services.

The estimated cost of the Project is \$285,000.

Neither the Project, nor any portion thereof, is proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, or funded in whole or in part, by the state through any contract or grant. Verizon is a private entity.

### **Proposed Small Wireless Facility**

The Pennant is a triangular-shaped mixed-use building complex located on a 2.5 acre parcel owned by the City and adjacent to Dunkin Park baseball stadium to the north, I-84 to the south, a parking lot to the west, and a residential building to the east. The nearest residence is an apartment directly below the antennas.

Verizon proposes to install eighteen 700/850/1900/2100/3600/3700 MHz panel antennas and nine remote radio units attached to pipe masts across three ballast mounts on the roof of The Pennant building at a

centerline height of 85 feet above ground level (agl).<sup>2</sup> Two mounting frames would be installed in the northern portion of the roof along Trumbull Street. The third mounting frame would be installed in the southeast portion of the roof along Morgan Street North. Electric and telephone service would be routed within conduits attached to the exterior of the building from existing connections located in the basement to an equipment area enclosed within a chain link fence on the fourth-floor parking garage level.

Verizon will install a battery cabinet that could provide up to eight hours of backup power to the proposed facility in the event of a power outage.

Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers are licensed by and are under the jurisdiction and authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). At present, no standards for backup power for CMRS providers have been promulgated by the FCC.

Normal work hours would be Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Installation of the facility would take approximately eight weeks.

### **Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No ground disturbance is proposed. Project construction will occur on the roof of the building and fourth floor of the building parking garage.

The visual impact of the proposed small wireless facility would be minimal and confined to the area around the building. No stealth options were discussed with the City. The only feasible stealth design option for the proposed facility involves the installation of RF transparent screening panels that would add to the wind loading and could result in structural issues for the building roof and antenna mounting structures. In addition, screening panels would increase the Project cost by a minimum of \$30,000.

### **Public Safety**

The Project would be constructed in accordance with the current Connecticut State Building Code, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) 222-H Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Supporting Structures using a maximum wind speed of 120 miles per hour, the National Electrical Code, the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

Verizon's proposed equipment installation would be capable of supporting text-to-911 service, comply with federal E911 requirements and the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006.

The installation would not be a hazard to air navigation and no registration to the Federal Aviation Administration is required.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the building rooftop and proposed antenna mount are structurally adequate to support the proposed loading.

The location of the proposed small wireless facility is on a portion of the roof that is not accessible to the public or residents of The Pennant.

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<sup>2</sup> Verizon would initially install 12 antennas and add 6 antennas on an as needed basis to maintain reliable service in downtown Hartford.

The calculated cumulative worst-case power density after Verizon’s installation are shown in the table below from various locations:

<b>Power density calculation areas</b>	<b>Description of location</b>	<b>Percent of maximum permissible exposure limit established by the FCC(%)</b>	<b>Distance from proposed antenna (ft)</b>
Maximum calculated power density from publicly accessible area	Ground level	16.6	252
Nearest publicly accessible area	Sidewalk directly below each sector’s antennas	4.51	84.8
Nearest residence	Directly below each sector’s antennas	47.4	19
Nearest building – The Millennium	South	4.65	220

**Conclusion**

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

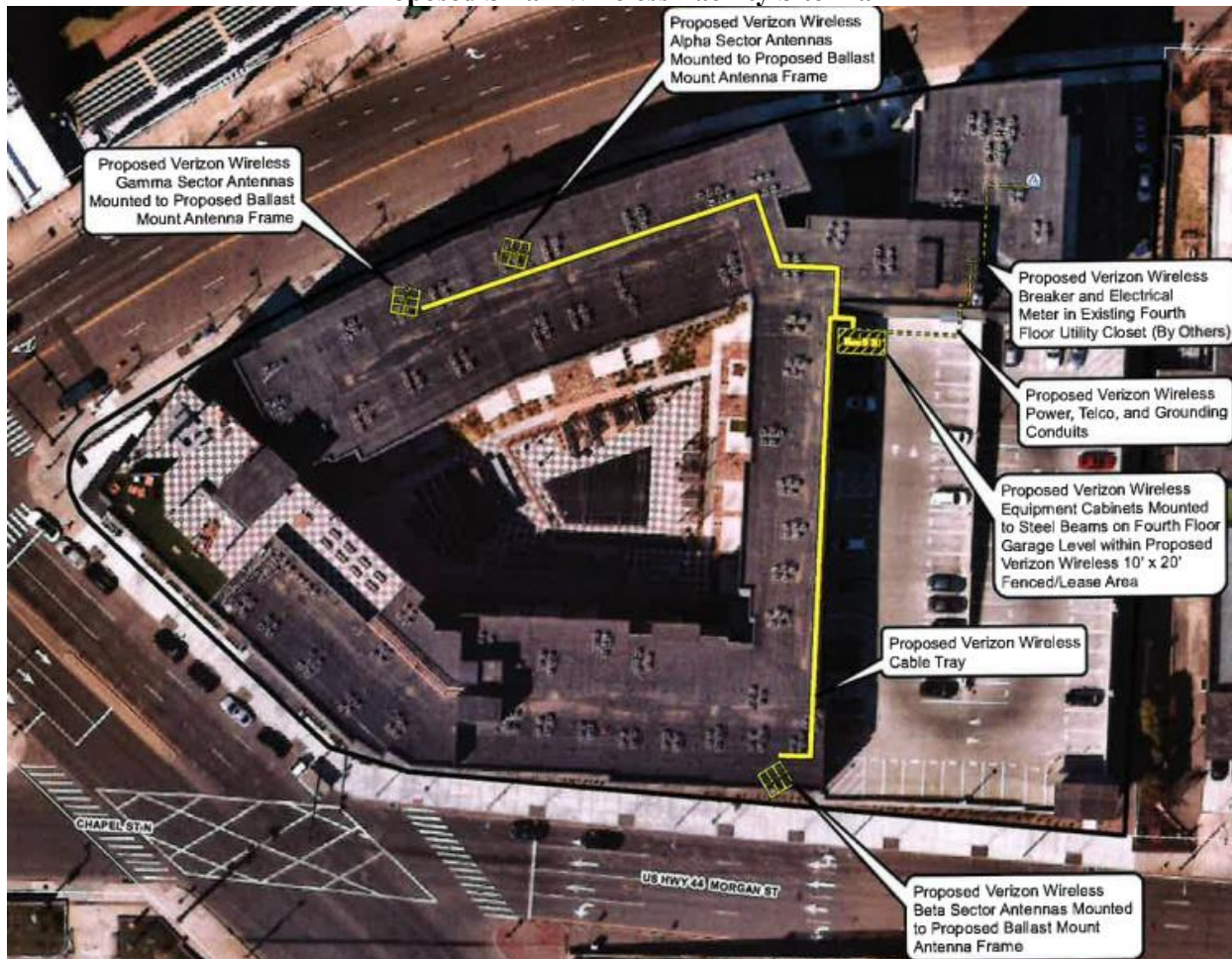
1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. RF access restriction and caution signage shall be installed at the site in compliance with FCC guidance; and
3. Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable.



### Site Location



### Proposed Small Wireless Facility Site Plan



### Facility Elevation Site Plan

