

TESTIMONY

TO: Louisville Metro Land Development & Transportation Committee
FROM: Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.
DATE: July 13, 2017
RE: Case Number 17Cell1001 at 8507 Westport Road

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. I live at 8207 Old Westport Road and own property that is immediate adjacent to the subject property. The subject cell tower has been in place since 2006, I believe. One of the concessions to approval of this tower by the Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services was that it resemble a flag pole with a functional flag. A standard monopole tower with external antennas was not considered acceptable by the former licensor nor neighbors. However, the flag pole design was deemed acceptable enough in appearance, and it was approved.

Nothing about the unacceptability of the presence of a standard cell tower at this location has changed in the more than ten years since placement of the original tower. The applicant has stated that increased demand is necessitating a change to a standard monopole structure with external antennas. The applicant can presumably show some sort of chart demonstrating increased demand, but I doubt that any residents of this area have come to testify at today's hearing demanding better cell or data coverage in the area. This is obviously an opportunity for the applicant to increase revenue by expanding coverage and subleasing space on the cell tower to other providers. One would not necessarily feel inclined to deprive the applicant of the ability to increase revenue, but it should **not** occur at the expense of the aesthetics of the surroundings to neighboring residents.

The applicant has also noted that federal safety standards sometimes mandate that cell towers be updated to meet those changing standards, but in no way was the applicant able to explain how **this** flag pole cell tower was currently or will in the future be non-compliant with the federal safety standards for a tower of its type. One would presume that an improved safety design would be available for a flag pole type structure if this was ever to become the case.

I ask each committee member to consider whether or not they would allow such a tower replacement (flag pole to standard) to occur if the tower was placed within direct view of **their** home. The current flag pole design is not significantly intrusive to the residential character of the area; please review photographs of monopole towers with multiple layers of antennas on them (the applicant currently would only use one layer, and likely only shows one layer on photographs of examples, but additional providers would mean additional layers of antennas). I respectfully request that the Louisville Metro Land Development & Transportation Committee members **not** approve the proposed cell tower replacement for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time,

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

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