

Russell Squire  
Chair

Will Brightbill  
District Manager



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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

December 20, 2022

Edward F. Pincar  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

Matthew C. Fraser  
Chief Technology Officer  
NYC Office of Technology & Innovation  
2 MetroTech Center, P1  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**RE: Disapproval of new Link5G Kiosks within CB8**

Dear CTO Fraser and Commissioner Pincar,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on December 14, 2022, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 40 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

**WHEREAS;** New York City, through its Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), has contracted with CityBridge to install and operate a citywide wireless communications network; and,

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge installed its LinkNYC network as the initial deployment of the citywide wireless communications network intended to replace outdated public pay phones; and

**WHEREAS;** LinkNYC provided free wireless internet connectivity using towers placed on sidewalks throughout NYC, many of which include electronic display screens; and

**WHEREAS;** Community Board 8 and constituents of its district have reported adverse impacts resulting from existing LinkNYC infrastructure, including visual impacts, inappropriate usage, impacts on sidewalk clearances, and rat infestation; and

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge is now in the process of upgrading its LinkNYC network to Link5G to accommodate technological upgrades that have recently become commonplace in cellular communications; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G infrastructure is a 32' tall tower that is installed on sidewalks in the public right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G towers in commercial districts include electronic screens similar to those found on LinkNYC kiosks that display advertising and public information; and

**WHEREAS;** the design of the Link5G towers has been approved by the Public Design Commission; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G must adhere to siting requirements determined by NYC Department of City Planning, and must obtain Landmarks Preservation Commission approval if sited in historic districts; and

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge and OTI have proposed 18 sites across Community District 8;

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge and OTI have stated that the siting of proposed Link5G towers in Community District 8 are based on gaps in coverage and locations where excess demand for the network exists as determined by commercial cellular carriers; and

**WHEREAS;** 15 of the 18 sites proposed are in or near either the Upper East Side Historic District or the Carnegie Hill Historic District, where renowned architecture and iconic streetscapes would be interfered with if Link5G structures were installed; and

**WHEREAS;** locations proposed along Madison Avenue would be in conflict with strict guidelines for illuminated storefronts and signage, and would be in conflict with the Special Madison Avenue Preservation District's design standards that specifically prohibit illuminated advertising; and

**WHEREAS;** residents of Community District 8 have strongly objected to the design and the visual impacts that Link5G towers would have on streetscapes, both with and without screens; and

**WHEREAS;** there are widespread concerns that 5G towers will be constructed at distances considered too close to adjacent buildings, as has already occurred in front of 520 East 90<sup>th</sup> Street, and

**WHEREAS;** 10' of distance from a tower to a residence that is permitted is extremely insufficient and should be revisited as a policy; and

**WHEREAS;** Neither CityBridge nor the cellular network providers that Link5G service is intended to supplement have provided any evidence that dropped calls and limited capacity are present at the proposed Link5G locations;

**WHEREAS;** the proposed sites for Link5G don't include any locations in areas known to be potential digital deserts within Community District 8; and

**WHEREAS;** OTI and CityBridge have not provided detailed plans regarding the full build-out of Link5G, both within Community District 8 and in areas north of 96<sup>th</sup> Street and in the outer Boroughs; and

**WHEREAS;** there is a desire for any telecommunications infrastructure to be buried underground both for reliability purposes and to minimize visual impacts; and

**WHEREAS;** there have been questions raised by some residents as to whether sufficient research has been performed to fully assuage concerns that the radiation emitted by 5G infrastructure won't have any long-term impacts on public health or the environment, including young children, seniors, people with medical implant devices, pets, plants, and parks;

**WHEREAS;** the community-at-large has expressed their views that Link5G is unnecessary and unwanted in Community District 8 at present and until many of the issues identified have been resolved;

**WHEREAS;** New York City is in control of this process through its contract with the provider;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Board 8 Manhattan disapproves the proposal as presented to install Link 5G towers in Community District 8; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a moratorium be placed on construction and planning of Link5G poles and devices in Community District 8 Manhattan.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Russell Squire*

Russell Squire  
Chair

*Craig Lader and Charles Warren*

Craig Lader and Charles Warren  
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member, 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District  
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District



# Community Board 12

## The City of New York

### Borough of Queens

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DONOVAN RICHARDS  
*Borough President*

REV. CARLENE O. THORBS  
*Chairperson*

MARICELA CANO  
*Director of Community Boards*

YVONNE REDDICK  
*District Manager*

June 1, 2023

Matthew C. Fraser  
Chief Technology Officer  
NYC Office of Technology & Innovation  
2 MetroTech Center, P1  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Nicole Garcia  
Queens Borough Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
120-55 Queens Boulevard., Room 285  
Queens, NY 11424

#### **RE: Disapproval of New and Additional LinkNYC and Link5G Kiosks and Towers and Existing Link5G Towers within Queens Community District 12**

Dear CTO Fraser and Borough Commissioner Garcia:

**WHEREAS**, The City of New York through its Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) commissioned CityBridge to install and operate a citywide wireless telecommunications network, commonly referred to as LinkNYC; and

**WHEREAS**, The LinkNYC network was designed so that telecommunication kiosks and/or towers would supersede the now defunct public pay phones using the existing telecommunication lines rather than install new infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, LinkNYC was intended to provide free wireless internet connectivity (Wi-Fi), mobile device charging, and emergency calls to the public using 9-1/2 foot LinkNYC kiosks placed on sidewalks throughout NYC, many of which include electronic display screens; and

**WHEREAS**, as of February 28, 2023, the catchment area of Queens Community District 12 currently has 275 mobile telecommunication reservation pole locations, according to the City of New

York's Open Data website, <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/City-Government/Mobile-Telecommunications-Franchise-Pole-Reservati/tbgj-tdd6>; and

**WHEREAS**, all of the Link5G towers that have so far been constructed and installed within Queens Community District 12 have been done without prior written notice to Community District 12 or prior community participation, input or approval by Community District 12; and

**WHEREAS**, all of the LinkNYC kiosks, and telecommunications devices such as pole tops and canisters of 4G/5G “small” cells on utility poles have been installed within Queens Community District 12 without prior written notice to Community District 12 or prior community participation, input or approval by Community District 12; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 104 Link5G towers planned for Queens Community District 12 under the “Equitable Deployment Mandate” set forth in OTI’s Link5G Presentation of December 13, 2021 to the Public Design Commission at <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/designcommission/downloads/pdf/12-13-2021-pres-DoITT-p-Link-5G-1.pdf>; and

**WHEREAS**, OTI presented the proposed installation of eleven (11) Link5G towers presented at the Transportation Committee meeting held on March 14, 2023 of Queens Community Board 12; and

**WHEREAS**, there are sixty-seven (67) Link5G towers now listed on OTI’s LinkNYC New Site Permit Applications, updated as of May 26, 2023, at <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/LinkNYC-New-Site-Permit-Applications/xp25-gxux>; and

**WHEREAS**, CityBridge and OTI have stated that the siting of the Link5G towers in Community District 12 has been based on capacity needs for potential future demand in cellular service identified by commercial cellular carriers; and

**WHEREAS**, neither CityBridge nor the cellular network providers that the Link5G service is intended to supplement has provided any evidence that dropped calls and limited capacity are present at the proposed or current Link5G locations; and

**WHEREAS**, CityBridge and OTI are in the midst of upgrading the LinkNYC network from 4G to 5G to accommodate greater broadband capacity and associated features common in current mobile communication devices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Link5G infrastructure are primarily 32’ tall towers which are installed on sidewalks in the public right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, 5G mobile technology has greater signal intensity over shorter distances which require further installation and densification of kiosks and towers to provide similar coverage to its 4G predecessor; and

**WHEREAS**, there was concern that the Link5G tower project had not undergone review otherwise required under NYC’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP); and

**WHEREAS**, Queens Community District 12 constituents/residents have reported adverse impacts resulting from existing LinkNYC and Link5G infrastructure; including visual impact, light pollution, insufficient sidewalk clearances, and adverse physical health impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, there is concern regarding the peer-reviewed, scientific studies showing adverse impacts to humans from radio-frequency radiation, and other studies showing adverse impacts to flora and fauna; and

**WHEREAS**, Queens Community District 12 constituents/residents have reported concerns over the cyber security and privacy risks of Link5G towers; and

**WHEREAS**, Queens Community District 12 constituents/residents have strongly objected to the visual impacts of Link5G towers on the streetscapes; and

**WHEREAS**, there are widespread concerns that Link5G towers will be constructed at distances considered too close to adjacent buildings, without a sufficient fall zone in the event of structural failure collapse of such towers into homes, schools or onto the streets with pedestrian and vehicular traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, there was concern with the ability for constituents/residents to obtain federal mortgage and home ownership assistance in light of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) categorizing cell towers in general as “Hazards and Nuisances” and that the Federal Housing Administration will not issue mortgages for homes within the fall zone of a cell tower; and

**WHEREAS**, the inability to obtain federal mortgage and home ownership assistance does not serve economic equity or environmental justice goals in Community District 12; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a desire for any telecommunications infrastructure to be buried underground for capacity and reliability purposes, to minimize visual impacts, and to allow for sidewalk clearances; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a desire for telecommunications infrastructure to be wired to the premises for greater capacity and reliability, such as fiber optics, which the federal government has made a national priority under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific research has shown that light pollution endangers the reproductive processes of the endemic moth population and other nocturnal animals; and

**WHEREAS**, currently there is insufficient study and information on the potential long-term health impacts of continuous exposure to 5G signals/radiation on humans and animals that reside and/or work adjacent to 5G infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has notified CityBridge in its letter of April 20, 2023 of its failure to comply with federal law under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prior to its installation of the Link5G towers;

**WHEREAS**, CityBridge already installed Link5G towers in Queens Community District 12 prior to the FCC’s April 20, 2023 letter;

**WHEREAS**, we the members of Queens Community Board 12 are opposed to the further installation of LinkNYC and Link5G kiosks and towers and pole installations; and therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Queens Community Board 12 disapproves of the proposed installation of the eleven Link5G towers presented at the Transportation Committee meeting held on March 14, 2023 and of any future installations, including without limitation the sixty-seven (67) Link5G towers now listed on OTI's LinkNYC New Site Permit Applications, updated as of May 26, 2023, at <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/LinkNYC-New-Site-Permit-Applications/xp25-gxux>; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Queens Community Board 12 disapproves of its designation as a district under the "Equitable Deployment Mandate;" and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Queens Community Board 12 disapproves of provisioning for service current Link5G towers installed in Community District 12, and that any Link5G towers that have been provisioned for service be immediately deactivated and decommissioned; and

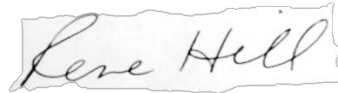
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that an immediate moratorium be placed on the planning, addition, installation or construction of any further mobile telecommunication kiosks, towers, devices and pole locations in Queens Community Board 12, until conclusive data can be found showing little to no adverse health risks to humans, fauna, and flora, and the issues otherwise set forth herein have been resolved.

Please advise Community Board 12 on all actions taken on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Carlene O. Thorbs, Chairperson  
Queens Community Board 12



Rene Cheatham-Hill, Chairperson  
Transportation Committee

cc: Hon. Eric L. Adams, Mayor of the City of New York  
Hon. Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President  
Hon. Adrienne Adams, Speaker of the New York City Council and  
Representative of the 28<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Hon. Linda Lee, 23<sup>rd</sup> Council District, New York City Council  
Hon. James Gennaro, 24<sup>th</sup> Council District, New York City Council  
Hon. Nantasha Williams, 27<sup>th</sup> Council District, New York City Council  
Hon. Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, 31<sup>st</sup> Council District, New York City Council  
Hon. Jumaane D. Williams, Public Advocate, City of New York  
Hon. Bradford S. Lander, Comptroller, City of New York  
Hon. James Sanders, Jr., 10<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, New York State Senate  
Hon. Leroy Comrie, 14<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, New York State Senate

Hon. Alicia Hyndman, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Khaleel Anderson, 31<sup>st</sup> Assembly District, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Vivian E. Cook, 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Clyde Vanel, 33<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, New York State Assembly





# Community Board Ten

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JAYNEMARIE CAPETANAKIS

*Chair*

JOSEPHINE BECKMANN

*District Manager*

January 26, 2023

Leslie Brown  
External Affairs Associate  
New York City Office of Technology and Innovation  
150 William Street  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Ms. Brown:

At a duly publicized meeting of Community Board 10, Brooklyn, held on January 23, 2023, Members voted unanimously to disapprove the placement of the proposed LinkNYC kiosks without having more and better information about the potential health and safety effects. The proposed sites are: BK-10-GF34914 – 7701 Shore Road; BK-10-GF34915 – 8301 Shore Road; BK-10-GF34916 – 699 92<sup>nd</sup> Street; and BK-10-GF34917-166 Battery Avenue, all within the confines of Brooklyn Community District Ten.

Additionally, Board Members considered comments from the public that kiosks and free wifi are not needed. There were also concerns regarding the height of the poles and the potential for loitering crowds around the kiosks causing disruption to residents in very close proximity.

I have attached the Communications and Public Relations Committee Report for your review.

Thank you for your attention. If you have questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Josephine Beckmann  
District Manager

JB:dg

cc: BP Antonio Reynoso  
CM Justin Brannan

ANTONIO REYNOSO, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

## **The Communications Committee Report**

January 10, 2023

The communications committee of Community Board 10 met in quorum on Zoom on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 7:15pm. Committee members present were chair Henry Stewart, Salah Altayeb, Tracie Britton, Judith Collins, Carmen Feliciano, Elizabeth Lovejoy and Essa Masoud, as well as board chair Jaynemie Capetenakis and district manager Josephine Beckmann.

Others present were Stacy Gardner, senior director of external affairs for the city's Office of Technology and Innovation, which oversees the LinkNYC franchise, operated by a consortium of companies called CityBridge; Brett Sikoff, executive director of franchise administration at OTI; and Nick Colvin and Rob Sokota of CityBridge.

On the agenda was a discussion of OTI's plan to install four LinkNYC sites in residential areas of CD10—at 7701 Shore Road, 8301 Shore Road, 699 92nd Street and 166 Battery Avenue. There are presently no LinkNYC sites in the district. They are in all five boroughs, but mostly Manhattan.

OTI has the authority to let companies use the city's rights of way, in this case streets and sidewalks, to deploy telecommunications technology, and in return they pay the city revenue. This is the franchise agreement.

The program began in 2014–15, as a way to replace payphones. The original Link kiosk provided free wi-fi, free nationwide calling, free device charging, a dedicated 911 button and a tablet to access city services—311, maps, nearby social services. They also had advertising screens on the sides, which provided the revenue source. It was not taxpayer funded. It makes money, so far \$100 million, with approximately 2,000 kiosks.

There were problems with CityBridge and the franchise agreement, and the contract was amended, most significantly to require 90 percent of new kiosks to be outside of the central business district of Manhattan (above 96th Street and the other four boroughs). They also pivoted on the revenue source. Advertising screens continue to be a part of the program, but another source was sought, tied to expanding telecommunication service to the city. The LinkNYC kiosk was redesigned to accommodate mobile telecommunication infrastructure—antennas and radios. At the top of the redesigned kiosk is space for equipment that cell phone providers use to enhance their networks. The Public Design Commission approved the redesign in late 2021, after which OTI began fabricating the Link 5G structures.

OTI is now in a five-borough rollout in twenty community districts. Some of these are on commercial corridors, as in the original program; others are in historic districts, parks and residential areas. Three of the four proposed in CD10 are in zoned residential areas. Kiosks in residential areas do not have advertising screens. None of the towers proposed in CD10 would have advertising screens, but they would have the tablets,



charging stations and wifi. (The fourth, by Fort Hamilton High School, is zoned as parkland.) They are 32-foot poles with the tablets offering access to city services and the other services. They have room for a "multi-tenant structure" on top, so several different providers can utilize it. AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile could all put equipment in there that decreases the amount of cell towers on rooftops and pole tops. The sites in CD10 were chosen for mobile communications companies' benefit.

Mr. Colvin said the new custom-built structures plug in coverage and capacity needs on the mobile-carrier networks and build out high-speed networks, particularly in the outerboroughs, where there's a dearth of available siting opportunities. He said they were necessary for building out the future of mobile wireless communication. There's a need and demand in the city for not just faster speeds but also service capacity. Every Link 5G site is driven by a specific request from a mobile carrier because of identified needs for service.

Mr. Sokota said he understands objections to new large infrastructure placed in neighborhoods, but the reality of changes in cellular service and the increasing demands all citizens place on the mobile-phone services means that over the next few years there will be a need for new infrastructure, additional places to broadcast their signal, to support the ever-increasing demand of their customers for service. As a result, this type of infrastructure is going to parade through the city in all neighborhoods; if it doesn't, for whatever reason, that neighborhood will have a much lower level of service, potential "holes in the network," creating problems for residents, visitors and emergency services.

It is difficult for carriers to provide service to parts of Bay Ridge because of the nature of the neighborhood—highly residential, largely low scale. From a siting perspective, it's a difficult place. Even from a Link5G perspective, there are limited place to put towers according to their siting rules, because of overhead wires or thick foliage. They cannot be placed on corners, at bus stops, in front of fire hydrants or curb cuts; they must be placed on sidewalks at least eight feet wide; they can't interfere with a driver's line of sight or be too close to a sidewalk café or newsstand. There are more than 100 limitations. Moving forward, more infrastructure will probably need to be placed on existing light poles and utility poles. The sites chosen were not done so randomly or arbitrarily; they are carefully vetted, though they may still prove unusable—perhaps someone installs a curb cut, or there's something unknown underground that prevents installation. They are meant to solve a problem that exists today but also will be worse tomorrow without new infrastructure.

The first site is 8301 Shore Road, in front of the high school, across from the park, just off the corner of Shore Road Lane, where the sidewalk is wide, hopefully creating minimum impact on residents while increasing coverage on Shore Road. The next is 699 92nd Street, in front of the hospital, just off the corner of Seventh Avenue, where the sidewalk is also wide. The next is in front of a private home at 166 Battery Avenue, with the kiosk actually on 92nd Street, just off the corner with Battery, approximately 600–1,000 feet away from the previous location. The house is set back from the street,

with a wide sidewalk, a site meant to cause less imposition on residents than others. The last is 7701 Shore Road, on the east side of the street, just south of the corner of 77th Street, in front of another private home. Finding locations on Shore Road are difficult, because of grassy areas on sidewalks, driveways and dense tree cover, but the site at 7701 is one of the few they found that was suitable.

These sites are residential but also heavily trafficked—Shore Road, 92nd Street—meaning there's a higher demand for services on them than there might be in other residential areas.

Chair Capetenakis said when these ideas were first presented to the board ca. 2017, the city was talking about parks, not residential areas, so this shift requires some serious consideration from the board. She also asked for the dimensions of the kiosks. Mr. Colvin said the Link 5G structures for residential areas are 32 feet tall, 18" in diameter at the base, 19" in depth with the tablet interface, and at the top 28" or 34" in diameter, to accommodate the telecommunications infrastructure, which begins about 17 feet up. Street poles (light, traffic, utility) are 32 feet tall. Height is important because it allows the signal to travel farther with fewer interruptions.

Chair Capetenakis asked why existing street poles aren't being used at this time, instead of new Link 5G towers. Ms. Garden said a separate franchise with OTI has been doing that work in cooperation with DoT for the last fifteen years, supplementing carriers' 4G coverage throughout the entire city, in every district. But that it's not an either/or proposition. Mr. Sokota said the 5G infrastructure is different from 4G, and also that street poles were not built for this purpose and can't handle the same capacity as a Link 5G tower, which are specially designed to handle four times the radios. He said this is more efficient. He added that in a neighborhood like Bay Ridge you will see both of these solutions deployed in the next few years.

Chair Capetenakis expressed concern about safety and nuisance concerns. BM Masoud expressed concern about radiation and radio-frequency emissions from the towers—the services from the kiosks are welcome, but not the communications infrastructure. Ms. Gardner said there are already these types of installments in residential areas, needed to provide cell phone service—on pole tops, on rooftops and private properties. This project reduces the number of towers that need to be deployed by allowing multiple tenants to use the same one.

The city does not regulate radio-frequency emissions, but the federal government does, and Ms. Gardner said the contract with CityBridge requires its equipment to comply with FCC regulations, which it does, as verified by independent testing. Mr. Sikoff said 4G and 5G are not novel technologies but have been employed in the city and elsewhere for years. Chair Beckmann said this is different, because it's a tower in front of a residence, facing windows; she added that the FCC requirements are antiquated, having been put in place ca. 1996. She said this is new, and we don't have up-to-date studies. Once, she reminded the committee, X-rays were considered safe.



BM Britton asked if there have been environmental studies on the effects on plants and wildlife. Mr. Sokota said he's not aware of any scientific studies looking at the different frequencies used by 4G compared with 5G and whether they have different impacts, and that these networks have been deployed for twenty or thirty years.

BM Stewart asked how far the service from these towers extends. Mr. Sokota said about 500 feet, perhaps a little longer. BM Stewart asked if the service only extends 500 feet, will there one day be a 5G tower on every block? Mr. Sokota said there will be more, in addition to pole-top installations, but not on every block. They must be at least 200 feet apart, one per block and only on one side of the block. Ms. Gardner said the original LinkNYC kiosks were permitted to be much closer together, but these are not.

BM Stewart also asked whether towers could continue to be placed on the tops of tall buildings, as there are many in Bay Ridge. Mr. Sokota said Shore Road, for example, is park on one side and residences on the other, so it makes it difficult to find the tall buildings needed to expand mobile service. BM Stewart said while ten to fifteen blocks of Shore Road featured private residences, the rest has apartment buildings six or more stories tall. Mr. Sokota said the cell service in those areas might be better. The parts of Shore Road they chose were generally lower-lying areas.

Member of the public George Shahin lives close to the tower proposed for 77th Street and said he was dissatisfied with the reasoning for it. He opposed all the towers, but at least the other three are not directly in front of homes; the tower on 77th Street would be very close to a private residence, without a setback. He also couldn't believe there was a restriction against placing a tower near a sidewalk café but not in front of a private home.

Mr. Sokota said he understood the objection, but in that area of Shore Road it was challenging to find a location, because it was essentially all residential homes similar to the ones they would build adjacent to. He said they desire to avoid building in front of homes wherever possible, but in this particular area there were no siting locations that wouldn't be in front of someone's house.

Ms. Gardner clarified that sidewalk cafés limit clearance space on the sidewalk, which is why they impact 5G tower placements.

BM Stewart said there was a religious building now being used as a school two blocks away from the proposed site on 77th Street, on Bay Ridge Parkway, and asked whether that site had been examined. Mr. Sokota said he'd have to check, but he thought maybe Bay Ridge Parkway might have been too far north for the coverage needed in the lower-lying area of Shore Road.

Member of the public Brenda Lutfey Avignone lives next door to Mr. Shahin and said this block has special challenges, going back to when the city tried to plant a tree in front of her house and broke the gas line. The block has ConEdison problems—a fire last year, and an explosion—the gas and electric lines underground are close together,

a fire hydrant, a sewage problem and people loitering, drinking and doing drugs, and she was worried that the tower would attract more people. She asked why the tower couldn't be placed in the park.

Ms. Gardner said some towers were being sited inside parks, so that was a possibility. And she was glad to know about potential underground infrastructure problems at this point in the process.

Member of the public Odette Wilkens is a technology attorney and the head of the nonprofit Wired Broadband. She said CB8 in Manhattan has placed a moratorium on Link 5G poles in its district, because of long-term health impacts; illuminated advertising; vagrants congregating around them; and that there were no reported gaps in phone or Internet access. She asked where the gaps in cell phone service are; there are no reports, just telecom say-so. She said OTI had no legal right to build without demonstrating gaps in coverage.

She said there's already a fiber-optic buildout on which 5G depends, so why not build out that superior network service to physical premises? In Chattanooga, she said, they installed fiber optics to all premises, so now they have the fastest Internet in the U.S. She added the FCC sets emission levels, but it doesn't track any tower below 200 feet; the telecoms do the testing to show they're in compliance, and those tests are unreliable. Their claims about gaps in coverage have also been found to be less than 100 percent reliable.

She spoke on behalf of Barbara Hayes, who was having a trouble unmuting. An elderly woman, Ms. Hayes lives in an apartment outside of which a 5G tower was placed; formerly healthy, she has since become very sick, which she attributes to the tower. In Pittsfield, Mass., 17 people became ill when Verizon placed a 5G tower on their street. Wireless radiation in parks have led to a decline in bird populations, beehive collapses and the deaths of trees. She said a school was not a good place for a tower because children exposed to 5G could lead to developmental problems later in life, and leukemia. Healthcare facilities were also no good because wireless radiation can impact cardiac function. She said 5G infrastructure runs hot, and it can eat up tremendous energy and catch fire.

In the chat, a member of the public asked about damaged kiosks going unrepaired, and about promised revenue falling short. Ms. Gardener said CityBridge must maintain the kiosks physically and clean them twice a week. Open data shows which kiosks need repair in near-real time, and if that system fails, there is a 311 category for reporting malfunctioning kiosks. The revenue issue was part of what drove the renegotiated contract/restructured franchise. These issues have been addressed.

Ms. Gardner has been at OTI for six years, during which it has deployed the kiosks. She said she receives all the complaints about LinkNYC; anecdotally, she receives very few, for the number of kiosks in the city, but when she does, they work with agency partners to remedy them immediately, such as vagrancy, scaffolding, debris or illegal activity.



She said 311 was the best way to get attention to these problems. Ongoing issues can get NYPD attention.

DM Beckmann said the most difficult problems to address that come in through 311 are quality-of-life issues, particularly noise.

BM Thum asked if the board had the final say in this matter, and DM Beckmann said the board's role tonight was to provide feedback to OTI about its proposal.

In the chat, a member of the public asked about the towers' effects on property values, and also about the security of the data from the kiosks and what kind of cameras they use. Ms. Gardner said property values were not her wheelhouse, but that these kiosks provide necessary services and OTI sees them as a boon to any community. OTI has an extremely strong privacy policy; the franchisee is not allowed by contract to collect any information except for email addresses provided by users when agreeing to terms of use, and those are purged after a year. They are not connected to you or your device. They don't retain any device identifiers. If you just walk by, they're not taking information from your phone.

Mr. Colvin said cameras are permitted on the structures above advertising screens. Those cameras are kept off unless needed, such as if there were a vandalism spree, during which they may be turned on for a brief time. There's a camera on the tablet for the deaf and hard of hearing to make phone calls in sign language. There are internally facing sensors that monitor the heat of the structures.

A member of the public commented that free wifi was not needed, and that locals on 77th Street paid for fiber-optic cable. Member of the public Julie Mardin asked about the new type of antennae used and about millimeter waves. Mr. Sokota said the federal government has made higher-bandwidth frequencies available to the mobile companies. The earliest cell phone service broadcast on 800 to 900 MHz, followed a decade later by about 1,800 MHz, and now the frequencies are going above 6 GHz, or 6,000 MHz, above which are called "millimeter waves." The principal difference to more traditional services, the higher frequency bandwidth travels a shorter distance, and as a result will be at a lower power than traditional frequencies, because it's not going as far. In some instances, they won't penetrate certain surfaces, such as a wall. But they can carry significantly more traffic, so there's a tradeoff—is capacity more important than how far the signal can travel? He said he was unaware of any information that these new frequencies have a different effect than the older frequencies.

Member of the public Donna Lu said studies have shown people are getting sick from CitiBike emissions; now we're talking about kiosks less than a mile from CitiBikes, in addition to apartment building towers. She said when cell phone towers were first being placed, there were restrictions about their proximity to schools, and now they're being built across the street from schools. She said she didn't know what the health effects would be five or ten years from now.

BM Stewart asked for the committee's input on a recommendation. BM Feliciano said she became disabled fifteen years after volunteering at Ground Zero and has received so many scans that she can no longer be exposed to unlimited radiation, and tests must be evaluated to be necessary. She said having these towers near schools, healthcare facilities, was too dangerous given the unknowns about their health effects. That's the number one issue, because those things cannot be reversed.

BM Collins said further study was needed and the board shouldn't be pressured to make a decision this quickly.

The board also received at least 15 emails from local residents concerned about loitering and the health implications of placing these technologies in residential areas.

BM Stewart proposed a motion that CB10 denies support to the placement of these towers without having more and better information about the potential health and safety effects. It was seconded by BM Britton, and the motion passed unanimously.

DM Backmann proposed a future joint meeting of the Communications, Health and Welfare and Environmental committees to delve deeper into these issues.

With no other questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Respectfully submitted,  
Henry Stewart





# City of New York Community Board #1, Queens

The Pistilli Grand Manor  
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Donovan Richards Jr.  
*Borough President, Queens*  
Maricela Cano  
*Director, Community Boards*  
Marie Torniali  
*Chairperson*  
Florence Koulouris  
*District Manager*

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Ann Bruno  
Antonio Meloni  
*Transportation*  
Dominic Stiller

March 1, 2023

Stacey Gardener,  
Senior Director of External Affairs  
New York City Office of Technology and Innovation  
2 Metro-tech Center  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Ms. Gardener,

Community Board 1, Queens Environmental and Transportation Committees met with the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) City of New York formerly known as Department of Information Telecommunication and Technology (DOITT). On January 25, 2023 the committees also invited several experts in 5G to discuss the health risks surrounding the installation of 5G services closest to homes, residential buildings, schools and spaces in direct contact with people. After the committees reviewed the PowerPoint presentation presented by OTI and later heard from the expert's rebuttals related to safety concerns the committee deliberated.


The Environmental Committee and Transportation Committee came to a consensus that there needed to be more information provided to prove the safety of 5G in the community. Therefore, they voted to recommend to Community Board 1, Queens Full Board a **denial** of the use of LinksNYC podiums for 5G towers until proof of safety was provided.

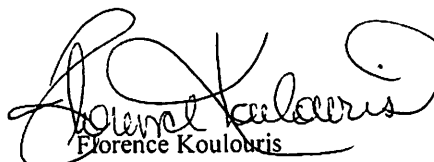
At the February 28, 2023 Full Board Meeting the Board voted in favor of this recommendation. Therefore, Community Board 1, Queens recommends **denial** of installations of any and all 5G antennas within the boundaries of the district until OTI can prove the health safety verification statistics of these monopoles for our residents. We seek documented follow up from your office with statistical information supporting the safety of the equipment used and installed by OTI.

Please provide this information to the District Office prior to any installations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Marie Torniali  
Chairperson

  
Florence Koulouris  
District Manager

## BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

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George Alexiou  
Louise Bordley  
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Mackenzi Farquer  
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Andreas Migias  
Doreen Mohammed  
Eric Mouchette  
Stella Nicolaou  
Juliet Payabyab  
Brian Romero  
Andre Stith  
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Rosemary Yelton



# COMMUNITY BOARD No. 1

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DISTRICT MANAGER

HON. LINCOLN RESTLER  
COUNCILMEMBER, 33rd CD

HON. JENNIFER GUTIERREZ  
COUNCILMEMBER, 34th CD

March 21, 2023

Mr. Brett Sikoff  
Executive Director, Franchise Administration  
NYC Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications  
15 Metro Tech Center, 18th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

## Re: Proposed New Link5G Pole & Cap Installations in Brooklyn Community District #1

Dear Mr. Sikoff,

Thank you for the information you and CityBridge provided to Brooklyn Community Board #1 and for participating in a presentation and discussion, regarding the proposed new Link5G transmission pole & cap installations in Brooklyn Community District #1.

On March 14, 2023, Brooklyn Community Board #1 voted 21 "YES"; 1 "NO", 3"ABSTENTIONS" to approve the following comments regarding the proposed Link5G installations to be performed and operated by CityBridge. The board does not sanction installing 6 new Link5G poles at the following locations:

Site ID	Street Address	Cross Street 1	Cross Street 2
BK-01-125285	640 MANHATTAN AVENUE	BEDFORD AVENUE	NASSAU AVENUE

Site ID	Street Address	Cross Street 1	Cross Street 2
BK-01-GF34896	21 INDIA STREET	WEST STREET	DEAD END
BK-01-GF34897	22 NORTH 6 STREET	NORTH 6TH STREET	DEAD END
BK-01-GF34906	419 KENT AVENUE	SOUTH 8TH STREET	BROADWAY
BK-01-GF34907	26 SOUTH 9TH STREET	KENT AVENUE	WYTHE AVENUE
BK-01-GF34908	26 SOUTH 10TH STREET	SOUTH 10TH STREET	SOUTH 11TH STREET

nor installing a cap on a lamppost located less than 10' from a building on the block of Lorimer Street between Scholes Street and Siegel Street (OTI #25821), until more extensive research is done to prove that these devices do not pose health safety hazards to residents. NYC OTI and CityBridge both deferred to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for supporting science related to safety. The FDA cites this study, Wireless phone use in childhood and adolescence and neuroepithelial brain tumours: Results from the international MOBI-Kids study, which on the one hands states "We have no evidence of a causal association between wireless phone use and brain tumours" while also noting "Because of likely biases we cannot rule out a small increased risk." The latter highlight we find to be very disconcerting.

Additionally, the following studies were presented to the board by the Environmental Health Trust, that raise major concerns regarding the potential health hazards of 5G technology: *"Electromagnetic fields, 5G and health: what about the precautionary principle?"*, John William Frank; *"Measurements of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, including 5G, in the city of Columbia, SC, USA"*, Tarmo Koppel And Lennart Hardell; *"Thermal and non-thermal health effects of low intensity non-ionizing radiation: An international perspective"*, Dominique Belpomme, Lennart Hardell, Igor Belyaev, Ernesto Burgio, David O. Carpenter; and *"Very high radiofrequency radiation at Skeppsbron in Stockholm, Sweden from mobile phone base station antennas positioned close to pedestrians' heads"*, Tarmo Koppel, Mikko Ahonen, Michael Carlberg, Lennart Hardell. All of these authors state that more studies are needed.

It was further brought to the board's attention that US FCC standards for Wi-Fi, Cell Phones and Cell Towers have remained unchanged since 1996. In an August 2021 court decision the FCC ignored record evidence in *Environmental Health Trust et al. v. the FCC*. After reviewing 10,000+ pages of evidence, the United States Court of

Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled that the FCC's 2019 decision not to update 1996 wireless radiation limits was "arbitrary and capricious." The Court found that the FCC did not provide evidence of properly examining non-cancer harms such as:

- long-term exposure
- children's vulnerability
- testimony of persons injured
- Impacts to the developing brain and reproductive system
- "Complete failure" to address environmental effects

Until more extensive and substantial scientific, and updated, evidence is produced to create strong assurances that 5G technology is safe and non-hazardous to people, Brooklyn Community Board #1 does not sanction installation of these units in our district.

Furthermore, the board urges OTI and CityBridge to (re)locate new 5G units in locations in the district other than solely the wealthy waterfront area, to create equitable distribution and access to the newest technology, also avoid redundant installation locations such as S 9th St & S 10th St. Instead consider alternative locations such as Greenpoint Landing, Domino and River Ring, massive residential development and park projects that are in the process of bringing thousands of new residents and visitors to Williamsburg and Greenpoint.

Working for a Safer Williamsburg-Greenpoint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dealice Fuller".

Dealice Fuller  
Chairperson

Cc: Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez  
Senator Kristen Gonzalez  
Assembly Member Emily Gallagher  
Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso  
Councilmember Lincoln Restler  
Councilmember Jennifer Gutierrez

[<< BACK](#)

## Parks & Public Spaces



January 2023, Parks & Public Spaces Committee

### Review of NYC OTI; CityBridge proposal for a 5G Tower in CB5 District

At the regularly scheduled monthly Community Board Five meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023, the following resolution passed with a vote of 34 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstaining:

WHEREAS, New York City, through its Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), has contracted with

CityBridge to install and operate a citywide wireless communications network; and,

WHEREAS, CityBridge installed its LinkNYC network as the initial deployment of the citywide wireless

communications network intended to replace outdated public pay phones; and

WHEREAS, LinkNYC has provided free wireless internet connectivity using towers placed on sidewalks

throughout NYC, many of which include electronic display screens; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge is now in the process of upgrading its LinkNYC network to 5G infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Link5G infrastructure is a 32' tall tower installed on sidewalks in the public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge and OTI stated that the 32' height of the towers is required to align with 5G

equipment already installed on NYC street lighting poles by commercial providers; and

WHEREAS, Link5G towers in commercial districts include electronic screens similar to those found on

LinkNYC kiosks that display advertising and public information; and

WHEREAS, Design of the Link5G towers has been approved by the Public Design Commission; and

WHEREAS, Link5G must adhere to siting requirements determined by NYC Department of City Planning,

and must obtain Landmarks Preservation Commission approval if sited in historic districts; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge and OTI have proposed one (1) site at this time within Community Board Five for the installation of the new 5G Tower; and

WHEREAS, This location is on the northwest corner of 6th Avenue and West 53rd Street, in front of the Hilton Hotel, and will also have a bronze plaque imbedded into the sidewalk commemorating the location of the first cell phone call in history; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge and OTI stated that the location of the tower within CB5 was selected based on the commemoration of the first cell phone call; however, the plaque could be easily be imbedded without the new tower in place; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge and OTI stated that they currently do not have plans to install additional 5G towers in CB5 at this time but eventually they will be installed throughout the district replacing many of the 11' high existing 4G kiosks and that there was no master plan for installations within CB5; and

WHEREAS, The locations of these future 5G towers are not yet known but they will be spread throughout the district in order to provide 5G coverage and some towers will be located within CB5's Historic Districts impacting the historic character of those areas; and

WHEREAS, It is possible that future 5G towers are to be installed directly in front of residential apartments, and we believe that potentially 10' of distance from a tower to a residence is permitted is extremely insufficient and should be revisited as a policy; and

WHEREAS, Concerns were expressed regarding the locations of the 5G towers on public sidewalks in CB5's crowded midtown district given that the towers are infringing on the limited public space; and

WHEREAS, Concerns were also expressed regarding the aesthetic impacts of the towers given their height and visual prominence as shown in renderings; and

WHEREAS, It is not known, given the density of CB5, whether Link5G would even be necessary to address any digital deserts within CB5; and

WHEREAS, Suggestions were made to OTI and CityBridge for concealment of the 5G equipment and

exclusive use of existing light poles to mount equipment in lieu of new towers, which has other visual impacts as well, but OTI and CityBridge stated that this was not

deemed feasible to provide adequate 5G coverage; and

WHEREAS, New York City is in control of this process through its contract with the provider; and

WHEREAS, CB5 appreciates the need for ever evolving technology to serve its district and its visitors and wishes to be a partner with OTI to ensure that Manhattan has state-of-the-art connectivity and other

technology; and

WHEREAS, CB5 concludes that more time and information is required to review the 5G towers, their

locations within 5G, and the towers' impacts both visually and practically to the inhabitants of and visitors to CB5; and therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Community Board Five Manhattan disapproves the proposal as presented to install Link 5G towers at the northwest corner of 6th Avenue and 53rd Street, in front of the Hilton Hotel; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Community Board Five disapproves the installation of any Link 5G towers within the borders of CB5 until such time as all interested parties, including CB5, residents, business owners and community groups have a better opportunity to provide input and more information about locations of potential digital deserts be provided; and be it

**FUTHER RESOLVD**, Community Board Five requests that a moratorium be placed on construction and

At the regularly scheduled monthly Community Board Five meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023, the following resolution passed with a vote of 34 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstaining:

WHEREAS, New York City, through its Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), has contracted with

CityBridge to install and operate a citywide wireless communications network; and,

WHEREAS, CityBridge installed its LinkNYC network as the initial deployment of the citywide wireless

communications network intended to replace outdated public pay phones; and

WHEREAS, LinkNYC has provided free wireless internet connectivity using towers placed on sidewalks

throughout NYC, many of which include electronic display screens; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge is now in the process of upgrading its LinkNYC network to 5G infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Link5G infrastructure is a 32' tall tower installed on sidewalks in the public right-of-way; and

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WHEREAS, Link5G must adhere to siting requirements determined by NYC Department of City Planning,

and must obtain Landmarks Preservation Commission approval if sited in historic districts; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge and OTI have proposed one (1) site at this time within Community Board Five for the installation of the new 5G Tower; and

WHEREAS, This location is on the northwest corner of 6 th Avenue and West 53 rd Street, in front of the Hilton Hotel, and will also have a bronze plaque imbedded into the sidewalk commemorating the location of the first cell phone call in history; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge and OTI stated that the location of the tower within CB5 was selected based on the commemoration of the first cell phone call; however, the plaque could be easily be imbedded without the new tower in place; and

WHEREAS, CityBridge and OTI stated that they currently do not have plans to install additional 5G towers in CB5 at this time but eventually they will be installed throughout the district replacing many of the 11' high existing 4G kiosks and that there was no master plan for installations within CB5; and

WHEREAS, The locations of these future 5G towers are not yet known but they will be spread throughout the district in order to provide 5G coverage and some towers will be located within CB5's Historic Districts impacting the historic character of those areas; and

WHEREAS, It is possible that future 5G towers are to be installed directly in front of residential apartments, and we believe that potentially 10' of distance from a tower to a residence is permitted is extremely insufficient and should be revisited as a policy; and

WHEREAS, Concerns were expressed regarding the locations of the 5G towers on public sidewalks in CB5's crowded midtown district given that the towers are infringing on the limited public space; and

WHEREAS, Concerns were also expressed regarding the aesthetic impacts of the towers given their height and visual prominence as shown in renderings; and

WHEREAS, It is not known, given the density of CB5, whether Link5G would even be necessary to address any digital deserts within CB5; and

WHEREAS, Suggestions were made to OTI and CityBridge for concealment of the 5G equipment and

exclusive use of existing light poles to mount equipment in lieu of new towers, which has other visual impacts as well, but OTI and CityBridge stated that this was not deemed feasible to provide adequate 5G coverage; and

WHEREAS, New York City is in control of this process through its contract with the provider; and

WHEREAS, CB5 appreciates the need for ever evolving technology to serve its district and its visitors and wishes to be a partner with OTI to ensure that Manhattan has state-of-the-art connectivity and other

technology; and

WHEREAS, CB5 concludes that more time and information is required to review the 5G towers, their

locations within 5G, and the towers' impacts both visually and practically to the inhabitants of and visitors to CB5; and therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Community Board Five Manhattan disapproves the proposal as presented to install Link 5G towers at the northwest corner of 6th Avenue and 53rd Street, in front of the Hilton Hotel; and be it

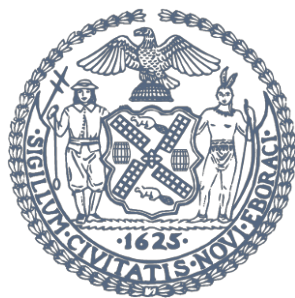
**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Community Board Five disapproves the installation of any Link 5G towers within the borders of CB5 until such time as all interested parties, including CB5, residents, business owners and community groups have a better opportunity to provide input and more information about locations of potential digital deserts be provided; and be it

**FUTHER RESOLVD**, Community Board Five requests that a moratorium be placed on construction and planning of Link5G poles and devices in our district.



Community Board Five  
450 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2109  
New York, NY 10123  
phone: 212-465-0907  
fax: 212-465-1628  
email: office@cb5.org

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# BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 9

## **BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 9 5G TOWER MORATORIUM RESOLUTION**

**Antonio Reynoso**  
*Borough President*

**Dante B. Arnwine**  
*District Manager*

**Fred P. Baptiste**  
*Chair*

**Warren P. Berke**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair*

**Francisca Leopold**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair*

**Linda Watson-Lorde**  
*Executive Secretary*

**Mayna Legoute**  
*Treasurer*

**Nicolas Almonor**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Khyrie Alleyne**  
*Member-at-Large*

**WHEREAS;** New York City, through its Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), has contracted with CityBridge to install and operate a citywide wireless communications network; and

**WHEREAS;** City Bridge installed its LinkNYC network as the initial deployment of the citywide wireless communications network intended to replace outdated public pay phones; and

**WHEREAS;** LinkNYC provided free 4G wireless cellular connectivity using towers placed on sidewalks throughout NYC, many of which include electronic display screens; and

**WHEREAS;** Community Board 9 in Brooklyn and other communities through out the NYC and constituents of their districts have reported adverse impacts resulting from existing LinkNYC infrastructure, including visual impacts, inappropriate usage, impacts on sidewalk clearances, and rat infestation; and

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge is now in the process of upgrading its LinkNYC network to Link5G to accommodate technological upgrades that have recently become commonplace in cellular communications; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G infrastructure is a 32' tall tower that is installed on sidewalks in the public right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G towers in commercial districts include electronic screens similar to those found on LinkNYC kiosks that display advertising and public information; and

**WHEREAS;** the design of the Link5G towers has been approved by the Public Design Commission; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G must adhere to siting requirements determined by NYC Department of City Planning, and must obtain Landmarks Preservation Commission approval if sited in historic districts; and

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge and OTI installed 5G towers without notification and input from the residents and Community Board 9 in Brooklyn; and

**WHEREAS;** City Bridge and OTI have proposed unknown number of sites across Community District 9; and





# BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 9

**WHEREAS;** City Bridge and OTI have stated that the siting of proposed Link5G towers in Community District 9 are based on gaps in coverage and locations where excess demand for the network exists as determined by commercial cellular carriers; and

**WHEREAS;** where the currently proposed locations for 5G towers are not disclosed to residents and Community Board 9; and

**WHEREAS;** residents of Community District 9 have strongly objected to the design and the visual impacts that Link5G towers would have on streetscapes, both with and without screens; and

**WHEREAS;** there are widespread concerns that 5G towers will be constructed at distances considered too close to adjacent buildings, as has already occurred on Bedford; and

**WHEREAS;** 10' of distance from a tower to a residence that is permitted is extremely insufficient and should be revisited as a policy; and

**WHEREAS;** there are no reported issues by residents of Community District 9 of cellular gaps and frequent dropped calls that would justify Link5G being installed in the proposed locations; and

**WHEREAS;** the proposed sites for Link5G don't include any locations in areas known to be potential digital deserts within Community District 9; and

**WHEREAS;** OTI and City Bridge have not provided detailed plans regarding the full build-out of Link5G, both within Community District 9 and other parts of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS;** there is a desire for any telecommunications infrastructure to be buried underground both for reliability purposes and to minimize visual impacts; and

**WHEREAS;** there have been questions raised by some residents as to whether sufficient research has been performed to fully assuage concerns that the radiation emitted by 5G infrastructure won't have any long-term impacts on public health or the environment, including young children, seniors, people with medical implant devices, pets, plants, and parks; and

**WHEREAS;** there has the 5G towers pose safety risk including combustion, accidents related to the falling over of the 5G towers; and

**WHEREAS;** the community-at-large has expressed their views that Link5G is unnecessary and unwanted in Community District 9 in Brooklyn at present and until many of the issues identified have been resolved; and



# BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 9

**WHEREAS;** New York City is in control of this process through its contract with the provider.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** Community Board 9 Brooklyn disapproves the proposal as presented to install Link 5G towers in Community District 9; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** to a request for a moratorium on the installation and activation of any new towers in the community district 9 and that OTI, DCP, the Departments of Health and Environmental Protection and any other relevant agencies are requested to come to the district to address community concerns around the installation of new towers, and the towers that have already been erected; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the existing 5G are deactivated and removed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** to require the listed organizations and agencies affiliated with the 5G Towers to make a presentation to CB9 General Board and host a question and answer session following the presentation.

Adopted:  
5/23/2023



Xavier A. Santiago  
*Chair*

Angel D. Mescaín  
*District Manager*

April 26, 2023

Matthew C. Fraser  
Chief Technology Officer  
Office of Technology & Innovation  
2 MetroTech Center, P1  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Re: Proposed LinkNYC 5G Cell Tower Installations in East Harlem**

Dear Mr. Fraser,

Community Board 11 is opposed to the proposed installations of LinkNYC 5G cell towers in Manhattan Community District 11.

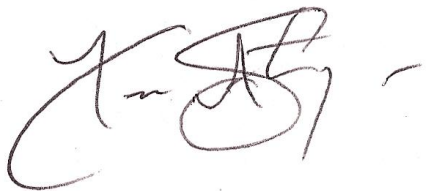
The Office of Technology & Innovation (OTI), in franchise-agreement with CityBridge, aims to enhance wireless communication coverage throughout the city by installing and maintaining mobile telecommunications equipment on street poles.

Members of the public have iterated their concerns regarding the potential health and environmental implications of these installations, citing OTI's lack of transparency on potential impacts on residential quality of life. Further, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has levied a moratorium on the construction of LinkNYC 5G tower kiosk facilities, as they fall within the scope of the Commission's rules for implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) \*letter enclosed\*.

The need to expand network accessibility in underserved communities is recognized - however, until NYC OTI and CityBridge allay constituent health concerns, including satisfy the FCC's requirement to complete procedures pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, and the environmental review process pursuant to NEPA - Manhattan Community Board 11 cannot support the installations of the LinkNYC 5G cell towers.

If you have any questions, please contact Khalid Nixon, Assistant District Manager, at [knixon@cb11m.org](mailto:knixon@cb11m.org) or 212-831-8929.

Sincerely,



Xavier A. Santiago  
Chair

Cc: Hon. Mark D. Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Diana Ayala, Deputy Speaker, New York City Council  
Hon. Kristin Richardson Jordan, New York City Council  
Hon. Julie Menin, New York City Council  
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council  
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate  
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate  
Hon. Eddie Gibbs, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly  
Judith Garcia, NYC OTI, Mobile Telecom Franchise Unit  
Brett Sikoff, NYC OTI, Mobile Telecom Franchise Unit  
Stacy Gardener, NYC OTI, External Affairs  
Robert Sokota, President, CityBridge, LLC  
Margaux Knee, General Counsel, CityBridge, LLC  
Rafael Escano, NYC Department of Transportation  
Jose Altamirano, Community Board 11  
Michelle Wiltshire-Clement, Community Board 11



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

**1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457**

**Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Fax: (718) 579-6875 Email: [bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org](mailto:bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org)**

***Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President***

***Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member***

**MS. EVONNE CAPERS**  
**Board Chairperson**

**MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNETT**  
**District Manager**

March 16, 2023

Brett Sikoff  
Executive Director, Franchise Administration  
Judith Garcia  
Assistant Director, Mobile Telecom Franchises  
**NYC Office of Technology and Innovation**

Re: Notification of a proposed "5G" street pole attachment  
Prospect Ave between E 185th Street and E 187th Street (OTI #25011)

Bronx Community Board 6 has reviewed proposed 5G street pole attachment #250111 and is in opposition. Board members are concerned about potential risks to families living in 2339 Prospect Avenue and 2347 Prospect Avenue, particularly those living on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor with windows facing the street. Community Board 6's District Manager requested information regarding radiation produced by the proposed installation on 2/28/23 and has yet to receive a response. The Board is not convinced that the FCC regulations on 5G installations are sufficient to protect the health of residents, who will be exposed to 24/7 radiation from the 5G pole.

In addition, the Board notes that there is a 4G street pole installation at the Southeast corner of Prospect and East 185<sup>th</sup>. It is the Board's understanding that 5G pole installations are necessitated by gaps in cell phone service. What demonstrated gap in cell phone service is this proposed installation addressing, if a 4G pole is across the street? It is the Board's understanding that per the judicial ruling in *ExteNet Sys. v. Vill. of Flower Hill*, local government has the burden of demonstrating gaps in service when authorizing 5G installations.

Bronx Community Board 6 rejects OTI's proposed 5G installation at East 185<sup>th</sup> and Prospect Avenue. We ask that OTI first address the questions raised by the Board, concerns about the 5G rollout process raised by Borough President Levine, and Manhattan Community Board 8's request for a moratorium on 5G installation. Without sufficient information from OTI on the risks and rewards of 5G, along with proper community engagement, moving forward with 5G installations - in particular those within 10 feet of residential buildings - is inappropriate and likely to draw more community opposition.

Regards,

Rafael Moure-Punnett  
District Manager  
Bronx Community Board 6

Evonne Capers  
Chair  
Bronx Community Board 6

Jeannine Kiely, *Chair*  
Susan Kent, *First Vice Chair*  
Valerie De La Rosa, *Second Vice Chair*  
Mark Diller, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Amy Brenna, *Secretary*  
Ritu Chattree, *Assistant Secretary*

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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February 1, 2023

Matthew C. Fraser  
Chief Technology Officer & Commissioner  
375 Pearl Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10038

Gregory Cala  
Community and Intergovernmental Affairs Associate  
1 Centre St., 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Matthew C. Fraser and Gregory Cala:

At its Full Board meeting January 19, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

**1. Resolution highlighting community concerns around the construction of Link5G towers and calling for a moratorium on the construction of such towers in Community District 2.**

**Link5G Background**

- 1. Whereas**, New York City, through its Office of Technology and Innovation (“OTI”), has contracted with CityBridge to install and operate a citywide wireless communications network, subject to a Public Communications Structure Franchise Agreement (“Franchise Agreement”); and
- 2. Whereas**, under the Franchise Agreement, CityBridge is seeking to install up to 2,000 “Link5G” towers, along sidewalks throughout NYC, with these 32-foot-tall towers providing free Wi-Fi to surrounding areas, containing space that can be rented to wireless carriers that can enhance their 5G networks, and with some of these towers containing advertising space analogous to the advertising space on existing LinkNYC terminals; and
- 3. Whereas**, CityBridge has already commenced installing Link5G towers in Industrial and Commercial districts, and is now looking to expand the rollout to include Residential districts and Landmarked Historic districts; and

4. **Whereas**, CityBridge is required to site 90% or more of new Link5G terminals outside of Manhattan below 96<sup>th</sup> Street in order to fulfill its mandate of providing broadband equity and closing the digital divide, with additional requirements to site a certain number of terminals in identified “equity community districts”; and
5. **Whereas**, the remaining 5G terminals outside of this equity mandate, which include those terminals proposed for Community District 2 (“CD2”), are, according to CityBridge, sited subject to various other criteria including where 5G service carriers have indicated the need for additional capacity, and the ability to generate advertising revenue; and
6. **Whereas**, potential siting locations are subject to a range of siting criteria, with additional criteria applying to those being sited within landmarked historic districts; and
7. **Whereas**, Link5G only represents one component of NYC’s investment in 5G technology, with additional pole-top and roof-top 5G units under separate programs having already been rolled out and continuing to be rolled out extensively across the city; and

#### **Initial Proposed Link5G Sites in CD2**

8. **Whereas**, Representatives from OTI and CityBridge presented to Community Board 2’s Quality of Life committee on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to share the plan for the initial siting of Link5G kiosks in CD2 and to hear questions and concerns from the community; and
9. **Whereas**, there are currently nine initial sites provided by CityBridge / OTI that will be part of the initial rollout of Link5G in CD2; and
10. **Whereas**, five of the proposed nine locations are located within landmarked historic districts within CD2, with two locations (820 Greenwich St. and 771 Greenwich St.) located within the Greenwich Village Historic District, two locations (568 Broadway and 110 Prince St.) located within the SoHo-Cast Iron Historic District, and one location (113 Horatio St.) located within the Gansevoort Market Historic District; and
11. **Whereas**, the other four locations, while not located within a landmarked historic district, are in close proximity to such districts may be located in close proximity to individual landmarks as well; and
12. **Whereas**, these nine sites only represent the initial round of proposed sites within CD2, and other sites are likely to be proposed by CityBridge in the future; and
13. **Whereas**, it does not appear that CityBridge / OTI are complying with the established siting criteria set forth in the Franchise Agreement for several of the locations, and specifically there appear to be no certifications that installation of the Link5G towers will in no way damage existing vault structures, which are widely prevalent in the proposed areas for such towers and where specific adjacent property owners have expressed concerns; and

## **Significant and Wide-Ranging Community Concerns**

- 14. Whereas**, numerous residents of CD2 and elsewhere attended CB2 meetings and/or submitted written testimony to CB2 to express opposition and concern regarding the installation of Link5G towers within CD2, with virtually no community members expressing support for the installation of these towers; and
- 15. Whereas**, the specific points of concern and opposition expressed by the community were wide-ranging, touching on areas including design & aesthetics (including specifically in relation to towers in landmarked districts and in proximity to individual landmarks), safety, privacy, maintenance, equity, and economics; and
- 16. Whereas**, from a design & aesthetics perspective, community and board members felt that the towers were out-of-scale with the streetscape in CD2, and particularly out-of-character with the landmarked historic districts within CD2, and there was a general consensus that if the Link5G towers could not be prevented from being sited with CD2, that they should at the very least be re-designed; and
- 17. Whereas**, with particular regard to towers sited in landmarked historic districts or in proximity to individual landmarks, there was uncertainty and concern amongst board and community members as to the exact LPC approval process and the amount of oversight that LPC and other agencies would have over the placement of Link5G towers and if there would be consideration of other alternative infrastructure that might better suit and be less obtrusive within landmarked historic districts which could also meet the established objectives; and
- 18. Whereas**, from a safety perspective, there was community concern around the potential health impacts of electromagnetic radiation emitted by 5G towers, particularly within residential and mixed use districts, and that relying solely on FCC regulations without additional state or local oversight was not adequate; and
- 19. Whereas**, from a privacy perspective, despite CityBridge being subject to a privacy policy under the Franchise Agreement, there was community concern that this was not an adequate protection, and that the Link5G system may be vulnerable to cyber threats; and
- 20. Whereas**, from an engineering design perspective, concerns were raised regarding engineering challenges, both for design and structural placement of the Link5G towers, it being apparent that many variable subsurface conditions exist throughout the older historic portions of the city, particularly in areas that precede the historic city grid system with extensive vaults underneath many of CD2s Sidewalks; and
- 21. Whereas**, there was community concern regarding the future maintenance of these towers, and that despite CityBridge's obligation to maintain them, that they might fall into future disrepair; and
- 22. Whereas**, there was confusion and concern expressed by community members regarding the stated equity goals of the Link5G program, that the towers being proposed for siting



in CD2 did nothing to advance these goals, as CD2 already has an extremely high level of broadband access, and that resources would be better spent siting Link5G terminals in areas where they would be more impactful; and

**23. Whereas,** there was opposition voiced regarding economic aspects of the Link5G program, which, while purportedly being installed at no cost to the taxpayer, would allow private entities to profit off of public space with the city receiving, according to some publications, minimal shared profits; and

**24. Whereas,** while CB2 appreciates that OTI and CityBridge have been conducting significant public outreach regarding the Link5G program, there clearly remain a large number of unanswered questions that span these various areas of concern; and

**25. Whereas,** seeing no immediate need for the installation of Link5G towers within CD2 given existing levels of cell carrier coverage and broadband access, CB2 members agreed that in the light of extensive community concerns and unresolved questions around the Link5G program, there is no reason to continue with installation of the proposed towers in CD2 at this time; now

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that CB2 Manhattan calls for a moratorium on installation of Link5G towers in Community District 2 within all residential districts and mixed use districts which contain residential zoning, as well as within all landmarked historic districts and areas in close proximity to individual landmarks.

**Therefore Be It Further Resolved** that should the city elect to proceed with installation of Link5G towers in CD2, CB2 Manhattan calls for a robust engagement with community stakeholders and significantly more extensive public education, public input and community review process to address the community's substantial range of questions and concerns.

**Vote:** Passed, 44 Board Members in favor, 1 against (C. Dignes)

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



William Benesh, Chair  
Quality of Life Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/em

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Daniel Goldman, Congressman

Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, State Senator  
Brian Kavanaugh, State Senator  
Hon. Deborah Glick, Assembly Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Man. Borough President  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council Member  
Hon. Christopher Marte, City Council Member  
Hon. Carlina Rivera, City Council Member  
Brett Skioff, OTI  
Robert Sokota, CityBridge  
Margaux Knee, CityBridge



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**COMMUNITY BOARD 9**  
MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights  
Manhattanville  
Hamilton Heights

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Ratification of Reso re: Disapproval of new Link5ZG Kiosks within MCB9**

January 16, 2023

Edward F. Pincar  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

Matthew C. Fraser  
Chief Technology Officer  
NYC Office of Technology & Innovation  
2 MetroTech Center, P1  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**RE: Disapproval of new Link5G Kiosks within CB-9M**

Dear CTO Fraser and Commissioner Pincar,

At its regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting of Community Board 9 Manhattan held on January 12, 2023, the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the full board approved the following resolution by a vote of 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 not voting for cause; 2 other CB9 members who are not members of the Executive Committee present voting in favor:

**WHEREAS;** New York City, through its Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), has contracted with CityBridge to install and operate a citywide wireless communications network; and,

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge installed its LinkNYC network as the initial deployment of the citywide wireless communications network intended to replace outdated public pay phones; and

**WHEREAS;** LinkNYC provided free wireless internet connectivity using towers placed on sidewalks throughout NYC, many of which include electronic display screens; and

**WHEREAS;** Community Board 9 and constituents of its district have reported adverse impacts resulting from existing LinkNYC infrastructure, including visual impacts, inappropriate usage, impacts on sidewalk clearances, and rat infestation; and

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge is now in the process of upgrading its LinkNYC network to Link5G to accommodate technological upgrades that have recently become commonplace in cellular communications; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G infrastructure is a 32' tall tower that is installed on sidewalks in the public right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G towers in commercial districts include electronic screens similar to those found on LinkNYC kiosks that display advertising and public information; and

**WHEREAS;** the design of the Link5G towers has been approved by the Public Design Commission; and

**WHEREAS;** Link5G must adhere to siting requirements determined by NYC Department of City Planning, and must obtain Landmarks Preservation Commission approval if sited in historic districts; and

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge and OTI have proposed 4 sites across Community District 9;

**WHEREAS;** CityBridge and OTI have stated that the siting of proposed Link5G towers in Community District 9 are based on gaps in coverage and locations where excess demand for the network exists as determined by commercial cellular carriers; and

**WHEREAS;** 4 of the 18 sites proposed are either in or near the Morningside Historic District or the central Columbia University campus and the historic St. John the Divine Church, where renowned architecture and iconic streetscapes would be interfered with if Link5G structures were installed; and these addresses are:

- 2880 Broadway, *between* 112<sup>th</sup> Street and 113<sup>th</sup> Street, Residential
- 1060 Amsterdam Avenue, *between* 112<sup>th</sup> Street and 113<sup>th</sup> Street, Residential / *across from* the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
- 1125 Amsterdam Avenue, *between* 115<sup>th</sup> Street and 116<sup>th</sup> Street, Residential /St. Luke's Hospital
- 1181 Amsterdam Avenue near Columbia University, *between* 118<sup>th</sup> Street and 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Columbia University

**WHEREAS;** locations proposed along Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue would be in conflict with strict guidelines for illuminated storefronts and signage; and

**WHEREAS;** residents of Community District 9 have strongly objected to the design and the visual impacts that Link5G towers would have on streetscapes, both with and without screens; and

**WHEREAS;** there are widespread concerns that 5G towers will be constructed at distances considered too close to adjacent buildings, as has already occurred in front of 520 East 90<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan Community District 8, and

**WHEREAS;** 10' of distance from a tower to a residence that is permitted is extremely insufficient and should be revisited as a policy; and

**WHEREAS;** Neither CityBridge nor the cellular network providers that Link5G service is intended to supplement have provided any evidence that dropped calls and limited capacity are present at the proposed Link5G locations;

**WHEREAS;** the proposed sites for Link5G don't include any locations in areas known to be potential digital deserts within Community District 9; and

**WHEREAS;** OTI and CityBridge have not provided detailed plans regarding the full build-out

of Link5G, both within Community District 9 and in areas north of 96<sup>th</sup> Street and in the outer Boroughs; and

**WHEREAS;** there is a desire for any telecommunications infrastructure to be buried underground both for reliability purposes and to minimize visual impacts; and

**WHEREAS;** there has not been any information presented to Manhattan Community Board 9 that these street sites for Link5G poles are necessary to correct coverage gaps that could not otherwise be covered through normal wireless antenna placements on local structures, which is the routine method by which wireless carriers provide 5G and other wireless service coverage in an area; and

**WHEREAS;** the community-at-large has expressed their views that Link5G is unnecessary and unwanted in Community District 9 at present and until many of the issues identified have been resolved;

**WHEREAS;** New York City is in control of this process through its contract with the provider.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Community Board 9 Manhattan disapproves the proposal as presented to install Link 5G towers in Community District 9; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a moratorium be placed on construction and planning of Link5G poles and devices in Community District 9 Manhattan.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,



Barry Weinberg  
Chair

cc: Honorable Eric L. Adams, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate of the City of New York  
Honorable Jerrold Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Adriano Espaillat, 13th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Cordell Cleare, NYS Senator, 30th Senatorial District  
Honorable Daniel J. O'Donnell, NYS Assemblymember, 69th Assembly District  
Honorable Inez Dickens, NYS Assemblymember, 70th Assembly District  
Honorable Al Taylor, NYS Assemblymember, 71st Assembly District  
Honorable Shaun Abreu, Member of the NYC Council, 7<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District  
Honorable Kristin Richardson Jordan, Member of the NYC Council, 9<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District  
Honorable Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator, State of New York  
Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, U. S. Senator, State of New York



February 9, 2023

COMMUNITY  
BOARD #14

Matthew C. Fraser,  
Chief Technology Officer  
NYC Office of Technology & Innovation  
2 Metro Tech Center, P1  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

COMMUNITY BOARD #14  
City of New York  
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR  
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA  
District Manager

Dear Technology Officer Fraser:

On behalf of the Community Board, the Executive Board of Community Board #14 un-conditionally opposes the following: all proposed locations for Link5G/cell towers that are near or in front of residential homes, houses of worship or mixed use commercial/residential locations.

We oppose the following:

1. 1400 Brunswick Avenue
2. 71-02 Beach Channel Drive
3. 66-03 Beach Channel Drive
4. 32-11 Beach Channel Drive
5. 67-19 Rockaway Beach Blvd.
6. 72-19 Rockaway Beach Blvd.
7. 88-07 Rockaway Beach Blvd.

The Board also opposes the placement of a tower in front of 112-01 Beach Channel Drive until and unless further study as to safety and local community input has occurred. We thank you in advance for support.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Gaska,  
District Manager

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Cc:  
Hon. Donovan Richards  
Hon. Selvena Brooks-Powers  
Hon. Joanne Airola  
N. Garcia, Qns. DOT Comm.