



New York State Legislature
State Senator Liz Krueger
State Assembly Member Rebecca
Seawright
State Assembly Member Alex Bores



United States Congress
Congressmember Jerrold Nadler



City of New York
Borough President Mark Levine
City Council Member Keith Powers
City Council Member Julie Menin

June 25, 2024

Deborah Marton
President
Public Design Commission
New York City Hall, Third Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear President Marton:

We are writing to you regarding the Office of Technology and Innovation's proposal to install 5G towers within Manhattan's Community Board 8, which we represent. The Public Design Commission (PDC) approved the design for the 32-foot-tall Link5G towers, which are to be placed in residential areas and historic districts. Given the height and design of the towers, this decision generated widespread concern amongst community members.

Last year, following a letter authored by Congressman Nadler to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), it was discovered that the Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) and Boldyn had failed to go through the proper approval process for their Link5G tower proposal. Subsequently, OTI had to submit their proposal to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review. During this review, community stakeholders were given the opportunity to weigh in on the proposal, and many expressed concerns about the towers being out of context with the neighborhood and requested that PDC consider alternative designs.

Smaller 5G infrastructure has been installed on lamp posts and utility poles throughout the City, increasing the City's 5G capabilities in a way that does not interfere with the streetscape and integrity of our historic districts. Additionally, given the rapid speed at which new technology is developed, there is a likelihood that these large towers will become obsolete in the near future.

Whenever possible, we ask that the Public Design Commission consider the use of smaller 5G cells in residential neighborhoods and historic districts, so as to reduce their impact on the community.

While we understand and support the City's need for more 5G infrastructure, we believe we should be more thoughtful about the design, especially in non-commercial areas. Given the readily available alternatives and the widespread concern amongst residents in Community Board 8, we are requesting that the Public Design Commission reconsider their approval of the current design for the proposed Link5G towers, and to work with the Office of Technology and Innovation to site towers in cooperation with community stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President



Liz Krueger
State Senator



Alex Bores
State Assembly Member



Rebecca Seawright
State Assembly Member



Keith Powers
City Council Member



Julie Menin
City Council Member