

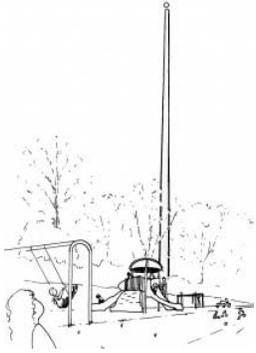
RTM

March 8, 2010

ATTACHMENTS

FOR

ITEM 11



# NOT NEAR OUR SCHOOL YARDS

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## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: What evidence exists that wireless telecommunications structures pose a health risk to children?**

A: The article "[Health Effects from Cell Phone Tower Radiation](#)" by Karen J. Rogers asserts that "there is vast scientific and medical evidence that exposure to cell tower radiation, even at low levels, can have profound adverse effects on biological systems." This article is well supported by scientific and medical professionals, including two-time of the Nobel Prize in Medicine nominee Physicist Dr. Gerard Hyland who claims "Existing safety guidelines for cell phone towers are completely inadequate." Although this article is from 2002, we know that United States safety standards have not improved, but the acceptance of these facts has grown, including:

- August 2004 – The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) opposes the use of fire stations as transmitter sites, because of the health problems of its members with the following resolution:  
*"WHEREAS, many firefighters who are living with cell towers on or adjacent to the stations are paying a substantial price in terms of physical and mental health. As first responders and protectors of the general public, it is crucial that firefighters are functioning at optimal cognitive and physical capacity at all times."*
- April 2, 2007 – Canadian Doctors call for "Removal of Cell Phone Antennas near Elementary Schools."
- 2008 – A German study at the request of the Federal Agency for Radiation Protection found the proportion of newly developing cancer cases was three times higher among patients who had lived during the past ten years at a distance of up to 400 meters from a cellular transmitter site – tending to develop cancers at a younger age-- compared to patients living further away.
- November 25, 2008- US Congressional hearing – [Cell Phone Use and Tumors: What the Science Says](#) convened by Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic Policy of the House Committee on Oversight and Government reform.

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- March 4, 2009 – Memorandum, “EMF of Mobile Telephones – Children belong to a Group of Increased Risk.” Opinion of the Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation.
- [January 10, 2010 – \[WPIX, New York\] A lawsuit is \[set\] to be filed \[Monday\] alleging that cancer afflicting students and teachers of a Bayville \(New York\) school is caused by dozens of cell phone antennas attached to a nearby tower. Three young students of Bayville Primary School have already died of leukemia and many more are sick. “We believe as much as 30 percent of the teachers, administrative staff and employees have been diagnosed with some type of illness, cancer, leukemia, and things of that nature,” said Attorney Andrew Campanelli.](#)
- Perhaps the most damning evidence comes from the insurance industry where at least one insurance company, the Cincinnati Insurance Company, insurer for Horvath Communications, as of June 2009, has made the science policy and will not cover claims of health harm from mobile phone base stations:

*“...since the damages alleged by the plaintiffs (the homeowners who have a newly built tower across the street from them) do not constitute an ‘occurrence’, and further that the alleged damages caused by the microwave radiation were reasonably expected by the insured (Horvath Communications), and further that the microwave radiation which the plaintiffs complain is a pollutant, and therefore coverage is excluded.”*

We respect that the scientific conclusions regarding radiation from wireless telecommunications structures are still being debated, but the examples above are just a fraction of the overwhelming circumstantial evidence that paints a very disconcerting picture. The pattern of denial, discovery and acceptance seems to follow a similar arc that lead paint, cigarettes, asbestos and many other man made health threats have. But in 2010, mainly because of the aforementioned tragedies, we are obligated to know better.

## **Q: Why a 1,500 foot radius?**

*A: “The 1,500 foot set back from antenna sites for residences is a precautionary approach because that is approximately the distance needed for the strength of the emissions from a mobile phone antenna base stations to diminish to background levels, (i.e., the strength of radiofrequency (RF) signals found where there is no functioning mobile phone antenna base station in the near vicinity). In the United States it is appropriate to make the property devaluation argument rather than a health argument in mobile phone antenna zoning hearings because of the preemption in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The*

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*perception of harm as perceived by potential home buyers is addressed by having a sizable set back from antenna sites. Perception of harm is a recognized element that effects diminution of property values."*

Janet Newton, President  
The EMR Policy Institute  
Marshfield VT  
JNewton@emrpolicy.org

## **Q: What are the documented instances of wireless telecommunications structures falling or otherwise suffering catastrophic damage?**

A: [wirelessestimator.com](http://wirelessestimator.com) is a website for wireless telecommunications structure installers. This website thoroughly documents structures falling, exploding, catching fire or otherwise suffering catastrophic damage when personnel are either installing or repairing a tower, which the website claims is common. Other recent examples of the hundreds of instances include:

- July 24, 2007 – a monopole cell tower structure (proposed for 328 Palmer Hill Road) caught fire while undergoing service to upgrade its capacity.
- July 28, 2007 – another monopole collapse occurred in California. The failed was attributed to wind speeds. The common failure point of failure for monopoles is at the base plate where the pole is bolted to the ground.
- May 8, 2009 – a tower in Joplin, Missouri, collapses at 7:00 AM crushing a car and damaging multiple homes following recent upgrades by service crews.
- January 23, 2009 – [A passing motorist films a cellular tower on fire and collapsing off Route 9 in Wellesley, Massachusetts.](#)
- May 15, 2009 – a tower in South Dakota collapses due to high winds.
- June 17, 2009 – a tower collapsed in Missouri nearly killing a farmer who was cutting hay.
- June 15, 2009 – 55 firefighters and emergency personnel were needed to rescue two cell tower servicemen who were caught atop a cell tower while working. It took so many rescue workers because large rescue vehicles couldn't make it to the site, which was tucked behind many homes in a densely populated area. For this reason the rescue had to be done with much smaller lifts.

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## **Q: What studies support the assertion that wireless telecommunication structure degrade property values?**

A: The impact on property values has many factors pertaining to the geographic area they are located. It is reasonable to assume that in a town like Greenwich that attracts premium residential real estate prices significantly because of its outstanding public schools, any negative perception of those schools would lower property values in the effected district. "[The Impact of Wireless Towers on Residential Property Values](#)," a very thorough and well documented analysis, by Carol C. McDonough, PhD concluded that:

*"It has been shown that aesthetic and health concerns about electric lines and towers lead to a reduction in the valuation of nearby residential properties. There are similar concerns about wireless towers; these concerns are widespread and have been expressed in multiple venues. Therefore, proximity to a wireless tower needs to be considered as a negative amenity that may reduce residential property valuation."*

Possibly the best comparison is Glen Cove Long Island, a town with similar real estate qualities as Greenwich. In 2002, Sprint erected a 100-foot cellular tower approved by the School Board that Record-Pilot Newspaper remarked:

*"The negative effect on our property values has been proven. Property values were affected by the Glenwood Landing area from the high-voltage transmission wires, and other water tower cell antennae installations in Glen Head. Re-assessed values to our property lower the taxes collected."*

The Record-Pilot went on to say:

*"Our school board showed no foresight, it did exactly the opposite of what a lot of educated school boards are doing across the country, which is passing resolutions that prohibit their land use for installation of these cell towers."*

## **Q: Who is supporting the North Mianus neighborhood groups?**

A: The following individuals and organizations have stated their support for the North Mianus neighborhood groups fight against the 328 Palmer Hill Road wireless telecommunications facility:

- Attorney General Richard Blumenthal (see attachment)
- Lt. Governor Mike Fedele (see attachment)
- State Senator Scott Frantz

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- State Representative Fred Camillo
- First Selectman Peter Tesei
- Former Selectman Lin Lavery
- RTM District 12 (passed their own resolution 21-0)
- The Greenwich Time – editorial Friday, December 18, 2009:  
*“it simply makes no sense to put one[a cell tower] where kids would be exposed to it, day after day, year after year.”*
- Greenwich Planning & Zoning: Rejected T-Mobile USA's application on 23 points and recommended T-Mobile work with community leaders to find an alternate site.
- Greenwich Board of Education:  
*“the school system has consistently opposed installations such as this on any property adjacent to or in close proximity to any of the school system's facilities.”*
- Greenwich PTA Council:  
*“Cellular Towers do not belong next to schools.”*
- Connie Williamson, Bridges School Director, June 18, 2009 letter to Peter Tesei:  
*“The location of the tower very near a children's elementary playground, North Mianus School, Bridges Early Childhood Program, all located within a dense residential community, should be avoided until more research confirms that this tower is safe.”*
- And the North Mianus PTA, The Riverside Association, Mianus Valley Association, Hillcrest Park Association, North Mianus Bulldogs youth football organization and Dogwood Park Association

# State of Connecticut

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford

June 23, 2009

Julie Kohler, Esquire  
Cohen & Wolfe, P.C.  
1115 Broad Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Dear Attorney Kohler:

I was disappointed to learn of T-Mobile's efforts to construct a cellular telephone tower in Greenwich near the North Mianus School.

I believe this proposed tower would be unacceptably sited in a residential neighborhood near the school, potentially jeopardizing the health of the surrounding community and students. The project raises profoundly serious and significant concerns relating to potential environmental and health and safety dangers.

Since no application has been made as yet for approval by the Connecticut Siting Council, there is more than ample opportunity -- and obligation -- to consider alternative locations. In light of these important concerns -- which are shared by other local and state officials, I ask that T-Mobile reconsider its decision.

If T-Mobile decides to make an application to the Siting Council to construct this tower, I will vigorously oppose it. I will urge that the Council consider these important objections, and follow its statutory mandate to consider alternative sites that would limit any impact on environmental resources, or on the health and safety of residents, school children and the surrounding community. I will consider additional action if necessary.

Please let me know your position within 10 days.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Blumenthal".

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

RB/pas

c: First Selectman Peter Tesei  
State Representative Fred Camillo  
State Senator Scott Frantz



Michael Fedele  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 7, 2009

**VIA FACSIMILE 203-394-9901**

Julie Kohler, Esq.  
Cohen & Wolfe, P.C.  
1115 Broad Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Re: Proposed Telecommunications Tower near North Mianus School

Dear Attorney Kohler:

It has come to my attention that T-Mobile is contemplating construction of a telecommunications tower on the property near the North Mianus School in Greenwich.

I understand the need for improved telecommunication systems in our state is without question. However, it is incumbent upon the stakeholders to make decisions regarding those improvements with the full appreciation for the balance between technology and the health and environmental concerns regarding the proximity to an elementary school and a densely populated neighborhood.

I urge T-Mobile to consider alternative sites for the proposed telecommunications tower; one that will meet the wireless service needs of the residents in the greater Greenwich area and will have nominal impact on our neighborhoods and school children.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Fedele".

Michael Fedele

cc: Senator L. Scott Frantz  
Representative Fred Camillo  
First Selectman Peter Tesei

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