

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

ORIGINAL

RE:

APPLICATION OF CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC.
(AT&T) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION
OF A NEW TELECOMMUNICATION (CELL PHONE)
TOWER FACILITY AT ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN
CHURCH PROPERTY AT 224 LOVELY ST. IN AVON.

DOCKET 373

March 24, 2009

RECEIVED
MAR 10 2009

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF JUAN A. FERNANDEZ
FOR THE MARCH 31, 2009 SITING COUNCIL HEARING.

CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

I live at 246 Lovely Street in Avon over twenty years. I have been close to neighbors in the immediate proximity to my home and find a sense of identity with this neighborhood that enhances my enjoyment of my home. This has not been disturbed by changes to the residential character of adjacent properties at any time.

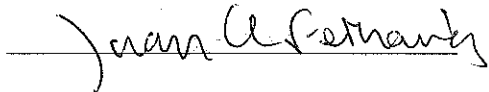
The sanctuary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church has been improved in the past year with a modern façade and a new parking surface. This enhanced the street and neighborhood.

In recent weeks, I was informed by neighbors of AT&T's desire to install a cell phone tower and support facility in the church's property and this will be a drastic change from the experience I described above because this project will cause a serious disruption in the short term as a result of the construction and subsequent presence of a foreign object in a residential area. Long term this could be a health hazard and a detriment to real estate values. Any other project that would change the neighborhood's character I am sure would take drastic scrutiny from the zoning board in Avon and would likely be rejected. In this case, the Connecticut Siting Council has jurisdiction but should not be less aware of the reasons I feel this cell phone installation does not belong at this site. After several constructive meetings, Avon's town government has expressed their objections to this project.

I feel this project is flawed for two reasons: The effectiveness of the improved cell phone reception has to be established through the best process, a temporary installation first and survey of the residents to determine if a noticeable improvement in cell phone service or exploration of an alternative site if little change. Then an appropriate long range plan that includes a process and funding for dismantling this cell phone tower and installation after new technologies are brought forth by the telecommunication industry in future years. A usable life span an end date should be set for this installation. This can prevent what could become a dinosaur and eyesore for decades to come.

I particularly object to the process AT& T and St. Matthew Lutheran Church have followed to get past objections many residents have raised. I respectfully request this project be suspended until the appropriate process is used to meet the resident's expectations and alternatives be explored that could accomplish the intended improvement to cell phone communications in this neighborhood.

I appreciate this opportunity to express my absolute objection to the Connecticut Siting Council for this project in its present form and will be glad to answer any pertinent questions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Juan A. Fernandez", written over a horizontal line.

Juan A. Fernandez