

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

Homeland Towers and
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC : DOCKET # 445
Application for a Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility and Public Need for the construction,
Maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications
Facility located at
Old Stagecoach Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

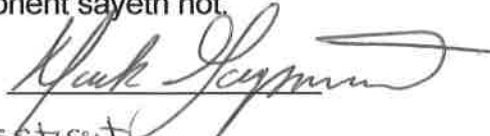
: APRIL 15, 2014

AFFIDAVIT OF

I, MARK GASPARI, the undersigned, being duly sworn, do depose and say:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and believe in the obligations of an oath.
2. A true and accurate copy of my pre-filed testimony for use before the Connecticut Siting Council attached hereto as Exhibit A.
3. I am the author of the attached pre-filed testimony and believe the facts contained therein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

FURTHER the deponent sayeth not.



State of Connecticut
County of Fairfield ss: Danbury

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of April, 2014.

 , Commissioner of the Superior Court
Notary Public
My commission expires: 5/31/2018



Jeanne M. Devanny
Notary Public Connecticut
Commission No. 164227
My Commission Expires 5/31/2018

Exhibit A

Dream Home and Neighborhood: I moved my young family to our new home in Ridgefield in December of 2013. We spent nearly 3 years searching for our home because we had a beautiful picturesque image in our head for where we wanted our 5 year old son and 1 year old daughter to grow up. We found our dream home high on a ridge, surrounded by trees and lakes. No signs of commercial structures, just nature. Perfect!

No Notification: Perfect, until I received an email from homeowners in my new neighborhood about the purchase of a lot where Homeland Towers intends to erect a cell tower. I looked up the lot on a map and to my surprise its approximately 1000' away from our dream home. We received no notification.

Residents Rights: I didn't think it was possible for a company to come into a rural, scenic ridge community and just buy a lot in our backyards and say they're going to erect a monstrous cell tower. I thought at the very least they would need the affected residents approval as it would be an enormous eyesore, potential health risk to us and our children and could decrease our property values. I thought we could approach our Town Selectman and Zoning Commission for help in opposing it but they've been working with Homeland Towers to buy this lot and make it feasible for them for years. The group RACT and other residents have been fighting off the tower in this specific area since 2010. They've been successful in their fight against the tower for years. In that time they saw the town buy up all the land and suggest they support our residents and there opposition to a tower. But quietly on the side it seems the Selectman worked hard and conspired with Homeland Towers to work one last lot, through questionable land swaps and easements. Needless to say most of our neighbors have almost given up because the task at hand seems insurmountable. I hope for democracy's sake it isn't.

Cell Coverage: I have cell service at my house approximately 1000' from the proposed tower. There are many spotty cell service areas in town but move a little in another direction and you'll find service. Apparently this will still be the case even if this tower is built. There is no "Need" for a cell tower in this particular location.

Opposition and Alternative Locations: There appears to be a lot of extra effort from our Selectman to provide Homeland Towers a location to build their tower without having to provide the land or approve anything. I believe this is a direct result of resident's heavy opposition to a Tower in their backyards. The town holds other key areas of land, which I believe due to their much higher elevations, Rippowam Road 918' Elev. and Old Sib Road 934' Elev., would require far shorter unsightly towers. These areas are in the Homeland Towers report.

Safety from Cell Towers: I understand proponents of the cell tower have used safety to justify the tower and the town has been granted tower space to add their own antenna for emergency communications. Ridgefield is one of the safest towns and our emergency responders have done an excellent job with current communications. With distracted driving from cell phones a major safety issue increased cell coverage can lead to even more distracted drivers.

Extraordinary Size and Height: The height and size of this proposed tower seems like overkill. There appears to be no other tower in a large multi town radius that comes close to this 150+ foot tower. In this day and age the fact that towers are getting more monstrous befuddles me. We surely have the technology to not require towers to be so enormous and obtrusive, especially in rural, scenic, historic areas such as this.

Alternative Technologies: Our homes all have WiFi and I believe so should all town institutions. In this day and age it should be used far more then cell service and I find it to be far more reliable. There's also DAS-Distributed Antenna Systems.

Decreased Property Values: In our 3 year search for a home we often saw incredible deals on houses only to find when we went to see them they were being overshadowed by Power Lines or Cell Towers. The huge discount on these homes in our eyes was solely due to their proximity to the Cell Towers and Power Lines. Like most people, we choose not to live near them.

Visual Impact and No Notice of Initial Balloon Float: Residents closest to the tower were never notified of the initial balloon float so that we could provide our own pictures of how it would affect us. Instead the Homeland Towers report uses select pictures taken from more distant locations. Even these select photos show the impact it will have on our community. Prior to learning of the proposed tower I had stood with other parents outside Barlow Mountain Elementary School on a beautiful day when one of the mothers looked around and said, **"I feel like we live in a postcard!"** We all couldn't agree more. As you can see in the before Cell Tower photo's, we do live in a postcard. As you can see in the photo's after the Cell Tower we will no longer live in a postcard.

My Conclusion: I'm writing in desperation and hoping you will find Homeland Towers Cell Tower application, location, land agreements, proximity to homes, tower size, dealings with town, opposition from community, lack of investigation into alternative locations and technologies, decreased property values, and visual impact enough to deny their application. It would ruin our dream picturesque neighborhood; home and property values to have an enormous cell tower overlooking it and our children's clubhouse swing set.