

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.

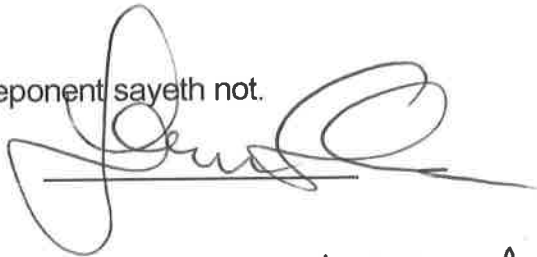
: APRIL , 2014

AFFIDAVIT OF

I, Lauren Sallin, 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.



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14 th day of April, 2014.

Christine E. Cuhsnick, Commissioner of the Superior Court
Notary Public
My commission expires: 02/28/2015

CHRISTINE E. CUHSNICK
NOTARY PUBLIC - CONNECTICUT
MY COMM. EXPIRES 02/28/2015

EXHIBIT A

For years, First Selectman Rudy Marconi has been relentless in his pursuit to plant a cell tower in the north side of Ridgefield, targeting an area known as Ridgebury, in a neighborhood called the Knolls. He has soldiered on despite objections from families concerned about the negative effects of living near a 161-foot monopole - of possible health risks and declining property values.

But nothing would stop Rudy Marconi from achieving his objective. ¹"This project started many years ago," Marconi said. "...This was the only location (the Knolls) that worked."

Not even a resounding "No" vote would end his pursuit. In 2011, the voters of Ridgefield shut down the Town's plans to purchase 28.8 acres of open space with an area set aside for a cell tower.

A year later, in 2012, the tower issue was back, a sequence of articles in the paper revealed that a homeowner was close to a deal with a cell tower company. When pressed for details about a possible deal, Marconi feigned ignorance.

²"I have no idea as to the location, other than that it's in the Ridgebury area somewhere - private land," Mr. Marconi said," while the Town was secretly negotiating with the cell tower company behind closed doors, to grant an access easement to the property that would become the cell tower location. All that was missing - a public land swap vote.

In 2013, another seemingly innocuous town referendum for the voters to consider, a land swap between two parcels, one residing in the Knolls. A duplicitous purpose we later found out. ³The land swap provided the cell tower company with an access road to the property they had purchased.

¹ Ridgebury Cell Tower: Information Session Shows Lack Of Neighborhood Support, April 13, 2011, Ridgefield Patch

² Progress continues on cell site: Marconi, March 13, 2013, Ridgefield Press

³ Deed for Map D08 Lot P/O Lot 0124, Volume 981 Page: 949, Map D08 Lot D-2, Vol 717 Page 547, Vol. 970 Pages 1110- 1118 and Map #8830

Just before the land swap vote Mr. Marconi told the room,⁴ "We have no intention of using any of this property **as a cell tower.**" His words, carefully phrased, were intentionally vague. The voters took him at his word and approved the swap.

Shortly after the meeting, the headline⁵ "Cell tower firm buys Ridgebury lot" appeared in the Ridgefield Press, detailing InSite Towers' purchase of the property on Ledges Road owned by Wilton Bank, just several hundred feet from the 2011 cell tower site the town had proposed.

Now in April 2014, the fate of the cell tower is in the hands of the Connecticut Siting Council. All we can do is wait. Wait for the outcome of the cell tower hearing.

Wait to see how the proposed cell tower affects homeowners in the Knolls: Aspen Ledges Road, Bob Hill Road, Old Stagecoach Road, Spire View Road; in addition to Barlow Mountain Road, Hobby Drive, Ledges Road, Rolling Ridge, Seth Low Mountain Road, Seth Low Pierrepont State Park, Sherwood Road, Sugarloaf Mountain Road, Teahouse Lane, Twixt Hills Road and other Ridgebury neighborhoods.

Wait to see how many families sell their homes, and how prospective buyers perceive the homes they sell. So far, four houses are for sale on Ledges Road. Four houses already have been sold on streets affected by the tower. How many more families will sell their homes because of a potential 161-foot blight in their neighborhood?

Now is the time for First Selectman Marconi to act with moral imperative and find a more suitable location for a cell tower. With all the open space and forestland available in Ridgefield, surely the Town can find another site that isn't located in the heart of a residential neighborhood. That is, if the Town ever really pursued or considered sites other than the Knolls. As Mr. Marconi said, "...this was the only location..."

⁴ Voters pass land swap, over objections of some, May 7, 2013, Ridgefield Press

⁵ Cell tower firm buys Ridgebury lot, May 19, 2013, Ridgefield Press

While we wait for Mr. Marconi to find his conscience, wait for Mr. Bodner to find out ⁶"...if these new buildings will affect the value of the other buildings on the Boehringer Ingelheim property?" (A point he raised at a recent BOS meeting); wait for Mr. Bodner to ask "...if the cell tower will affect the value of the other houses near the InSight property?"—

The Town should take a long, hard look at its conservation policy - to preserve hundreds of acres of open space - while abandoning its neighborhoods.

It is unconscionable that Mr. Marconi (and the Board of Selectmen) would invite a Telecom to town to industrialize its residential neighborhoods and destroy one of its most scenic and historic landmarks, once described as...

⁷"...gently swelling ridges, extending from north to south...
For beauty of scenery, for purity and healthfulness of
climate, for quiet and peaceful retirement, few places
offer such attractions as this little town..."

~Rev. Samuel Goodrich
1800 Minutes

⁶ Board of Selectmen Meeting - February 19, 2014 Town Hall/Large Conference Room - 6:30 P.M., Revised/Approved Minutes, #4. Boehringer Ingelheim Update - Al Garzi, Tax Assessor.

⁷ Chapter XII. Ridgefield in 1800, Pg 166, The history of Ridgefield, Conn.: from its first settlement to the present time, A.D. 1800 minutes.