

In The Matter Of:

*Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Application
for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility*

*Public Comment Session
May 2, 2017*

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1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
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5 Docket No. 471

6 Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
7 Application for a Certificate of Environmental
8 Compatibility and Public Need for the
9 Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a
10 Telecommunications Facility Located at 208 Kirk
11 Road, Hamden, Connecticut
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14 Public Comment Session held at Memorial Town
15 Hall, 2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut, on
16 Tuesday, May 2, 2017, beginning at 7:02 p.m.
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20 H e l d B e f o r e :

21 ROBERT STEIN, Chairman
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1 A p p e a r a n c e s :

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 Council Members:

4

 SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR.,

5

 Vice Chairman

6

 ROBERT HANNON

7

 DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS

8

 LARRY LEVESQUE, ESQ.

9

10

 Council Staff:

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 MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.

12

 Executive Director and

13

 Staff Attorney

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15

 ROBERT MERCIER

16

 Siting Analyst

17

18

 For Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon

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 Wireless:

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 ROBINSON & COLE LLP

21

 280 Trumbull Street

22

 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597

23

 BY: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.

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25

1 A p p e a r a n c e s : (Cont'd.)

2

3 For Patricia Sorrentino:

4 MURTHA CULLINA LLP

5 265 Church Street

6 P.O. Box 704

7 New Haven, Connecticut 06503-0704

8 BY: BURT B. COHEN, ESQ.

9 BRIDGET D'ANGELO, ESQ.

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: I'd like to call to
2 order this hearing of the Connecticut Siting
3 Council, today, Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at
4 approximately 7 p.m. My name is Robin Stein. I'm
5 Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. Other
6 members of the Council present are Senator James
7 Murphy, our Vice Chairman; Mr. Hannon, designee
8 from the Department of Energy and Environmental
9 Protection; Commissioner Levesque from the Public
10 Utilities Regulatory Authority; Dr. Klemens;
11 members of the staff, Attorney Melanie Bachman,
12 who is our executive director; and Robert Mercier,
13 our siting analyst.

14 This is a continuation of the public
15 hearing that began at 3 p.m. this afternoon.
16 Copies of the hearing program and Council's
17 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures are
18 available for members of the public that are also
19 on this table to my left.

20 This hearing is held pursuant to the
21 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
22 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
23 Procedure Act upon an application from Cellco
24 Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a
25 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and

1 Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and
2 operation of a telecommunications facility located
3 at 208 Kirk Road in Hamden, Connecticut. This
4 application was received by the Council on March
5 3, 2017.

6 This application is also governed by
7 the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is
8 administered by the Federal Communications
9 Commission. This act prohibits the Council from
10 considering the health effects of radio frequency
11 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
12 extent the emissions from towers are within the
13 federal acceptable safe limits standard, which
14 standard is also followed by the State Department
15 of Public Health. The federal act also prohibits
16 this Council from discriminating between and
17 amongst providers of functionally equivalent
18 services. This means that if one carrier already
19 provides service for an area, other carriers have
20 a right to compete and provide service in the same
21 area.

22 The applicant published notice of the
23 filing of the application to the Council in the
24 New Haven Register on February 28 and March 1st of
25 this year. The Council's legal notice of the time

1 and date of this hearing was published in the New
2 Haven Register on March 21, 2017. Upon this
3 Council's request, the applicant erected a sign at
4 the proposed site to inform the public of the name
5 of the applicant, type of facility, the hearing
6 date and location, and contact information for the
7 Council. This afternoon members of the Council,
8 staff, and the public personally conducted a field
9 review of the proposed site in order to observe
10 firsthand the potential effects of the proposal.

11 This hearing session tonight has been
12 reserved first for the public to make short
13 statements into the record. These public
14 statements are not subject to questions from the
15 parties, or the Council, and members of the public
16 making statements may not ask questions of the
17 parties or the Council. These statements will
18 become part of the record for Council
19 consideration. The sign-up sheet, as I mentioned,
20 is available for those who wish to use it, again,
21 on my left on that table.

22 And as a reminder to all,
23 off-the-record communication with a member of the
24 Council, or a member of the Council staff, upon
25 the merits of this application is prohibited by

1 law.

2 I wish to note that parties and
3 intervenors, including their representatives and
4 witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the
5 public comment session. I also wish to note for
6 those who are here, and for the benefit of your
7 neighbors and friends who are unable to join us
8 for the public comment session, that you, or they,
9 may send written statements to the Council within
10 30 days of the date hereof; and such written
11 statements will be given the same weight as if
12 spoken at the hearing.

13 Again, we ask each person making a
14 public statement in this proceeding to confine his
15 or her statements to the subject matter before the
16 Council, and to avoid unreasonable repetition so
17 that we may hear all of your concerns of you and
18 your neighbors.

19 Please be advised the Council cannot
20 answer questions from the public about the
21 proposal.

22 A verbatim transcript will be made of
23 this hearing, and deposited at the Hamden Town
24 Clerk's Office for the convenience of the public.

25 Before I call on members of the public

1 to make statements, I request that the applicant
2 make a very brief presentation describing the
3 facility, the proposed location, and why it's
4 necessary, and what alternatives were
5 investigated.

6 MR. BALDWIN: Good evening. Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 Good evening, folks. My name is Ken
9 Baldwin. I'm a lawyer with Robinson & Cole, and I
10 represent Verizon Wireless in this application for
11 a tower site at 208 Kirk Road.

12 Very briefly, the application was filed
13 back on March 3rd of this year. And the proposal
14 calls for the construction of a 160-foot
15 telecommunications tower in the westerly portion
16 of Joe Vignola's Christmas Tree Farm at 208 Kirk
17 Road. It's about a 9-and-a-half acre parcel.
18 Access to the cell site is proposed from the
19 cul-de-sac off Country Club Drive. Access is
20 shown on the plan here extending to the wooded
21 area to the west, and then turning to the north to
22 the tower compound. The tower compound will be 50
23 feet by 55 feet in size. There will be an area
24 for parking of vehicles, and a turn-around area.
25 Electric service would also be brought to the

1 facility from Country Club Drive.

2 I should point out that at this
3 afternoon's session there was some discussion
4 about alternative access. One of those
5 alternative accessways that was discussed was
6 pulling the access road further to the north into
7 the area currently used for the Christmas Tree
8 Farm to avoid cutting of any existing vegetation
9 or substantial trees between the tower site, the
10 Christmas tree farm area, and the properties to
11 the south at Country Club Road.

12 Cellco will also install a steel
13 platform approximately 12 feet by 16 feet within
14 the 50 by 55-foot compound. That platform would
15 support Verizon's equipment, which would include a
16 couple of equipment cabinets, and a small back-up
17 generator.

18 The site is needed in order for Verizon
19 to satisfy some existing coverage problems that it
20 has here in Hamden, and also to provide capacity
21 relief from existing facilities in the Hamden
22 area. Thank you.

23 We do have copies of the plans that are
24 up here on the boards here on the table, as well
25 as extra copies of the alternative accessway that

1 was discussed this afternoon for your reading
2 pleasure. If you'd like, you can take those.
3 You're welcome. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I understand that
5 Attorney Sharkey would like to speak on behalf of
6 the mayor.

7 BRENDAN SHARKEY: Thank you, Mr.
8 Chairman. My name is Brendan Sharkey. I'm an
9 assistant town attorney here in the Town of
10 Hamden. And the mayor regrets that he's not able
11 to make it tonight due to a family matter that
12 came up at the last minute, but he asked me to
13 read his letter of opposition to the application
14 for the record, if that pleases the Council.

15 "Chairman Stein and members of the
16 Siting Council: I want to welcome you to the Town
17 of Hamden. It was my intention to attend
18 tonight's meeting in person, but intervening
19 family matters have arisen that prevent me from
20 joining you tonight. In lieu of my being here,
21 however, I would appreciate your reading this
22 correspondence into the record at tonight's
23 proceedings.

24 "On behalf of the Town of Hamden, I am
25 opposed to the pending application of Cellco

1 Partnership for a new wireless tower off Kirk
2 Road. The town's opposition is the result of
3 listening to the residents in closest proximity to
4 the proposed tower. As you know, the town
5 initially suggested its own property at Laurel
6 View Country Club as an alternate location, and we
7 asked Cellco to hold a public meeting to hear from
8 the nearby residents about both those proposals.
9 Based on the input received at that meeting last
10 November, the town withdrew its proposed alternate
11 site and determined that the proposed tower is not
12 in the best interests of the neighborhood and the
13 town as a whole.

14 "I realize that this application
15 proposes a more "traditional" wireless tower, but
16 as Mayor, I have become increasingly concerned
17 about the recent wave of alternative wireless
18 technologies being proposed in our town. Based on
19 recent rulings by PURA, Hamden now faces proposals
20 for 120-foot towers in its rights-of-way, and the
21 replacement or extension of existing utility
22 poles, all to accommodate new data-driven
23 technologies. While we understand these emerging
24 technologies are inevitable, we are looking for
25 statutory changes to clarify these issues to

1 ensure municipalities, like ours, are part of the
2 deployment plan, not a casualty of it.

3 "Within this context, we oppose this
4 new tower. I am aware that the granting of the
5 certificate sought by Cellco/Verizon requires a
6 finding by the Siting Council that the public need
7 for the tower outweighs any environmental or other
8 community impact. Because neither the town nor
9 its residents have the engineering capability to
10 refute Cellco's claimed "need" for this tower, we
11 rely on your expertise to determine its veracity.
12 What we can communicate to you is that we believe
13 there are other alternative solutions that should
14 be considered, and the town should be heard in
15 consideration of such alternatives.

16 "For example, we believe the location
17 of the tower and its associated compound should be
18 moved significantly away from existing residences,
19 and alternative locations for the access road must
20 be considered. We also believe the overall height
21 of this tower should be examined to mitigate its
22 visual impact. While we leave it to you to
23 determine whether this tower is needed at all, if
24 you determine the tower is "needed," we believe
25 there are alternate designs that would mitigate

1 its impact.

2 "Thank you for considering these
3 remarks. Without more, the Town of Hamden urges
4 your rejection of this application, and we remain
5 available for input as you continue to deliberate
6 this application.

7 "Sincerely, Curt Balzano Leng, Mayor of
8 the Town of Hamden."

9 If you would like copies, to whom would
10 I --

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you.

12 Are there any other public officials
13 who wish to speak?

14 (No response.)

15 THE CHAIRMAN: If not, we'll go to the
16 list. I apologize if I mispronounce your name.

17 The first person, Melissa, is it Gamm?

18 MELISSA GAMM: Gamm, G-A-M-M.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And please spell your
20 name for the stenographer.

21 MELISSA GAMM: Melissa Gamm. G-A-M-M
22 is my last name. I live at 217 Magee Drive, which
23 is on the back side of Joseph's Tree Farm. On the
24 upper end of Magee Drive is where I live. It's a
25 few hundred yards from where you're proposing the

1 tower, or the tower is being proposed.

2 My husband and I have lived in this
3 beautiful neighborhood for 34 years, and we've
4 raised a family here. My daughter, son, and
5 grandson still live with us. I'm proud of where I
6 live. I know and love my neighbors. We talk to
7 each other. We look out for each other. I bought
8 trees at the Christmas tree farm. I know the
9 Vignolas. I never thought it would come to this.
10 And I'm very sad. I'm very opposed to this.

11 This is a densely-populated
12 neighborhood. I'm sure you saw from your
13 walk-through that there are a lot of families
14 close to each other in this neighborhood. The
15 tower will be an eyesore to us, and a detriment to
16 our property values.

17 Worst of all, though, I am very
18 concerned about the health risks of having this
19 tower in such a densely-populated area. The
20 microwaves that come off this tower can travel a
21 good distance, I've read as far as 2-and-a-half
22 miles. I do not want this exposure for my family,
23 or families in my neighborhood, nor do I want the
24 exposure for the kids at Bear Path School, which
25 is less than a quarter of a mile away from where

1 this is proposed. And I want you to think about
2 that. Kids, their bodies are forming. You've got
3 these microwaves coming off this tower at a time
4 when they're developing, and I do not think that's
5 a good thing. It's a risk for all of us.

6 I would also like to say that I'm a
7 Verizon customer. I've been a Verizon customer
8 for a very long time. I have never had a problem
9 with cell service in my neighborhood, ever. I
10 don't know where the problem is. So that's what I
11 have to say. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The next
13 person on the list is Mike Luzzi, Senior.

14 MICHAEL LUZZI: Good evening. The last
15 name is Luzzi, L-U-Z-Z-I. And I reside at 1233
16 Dunbar Hill Road.

17 Thank you. I'm here tonight opposing
18 the tower going up. I do not live directly. I do
19 not have an impact as far as my home, my area, but
20 my concern is an environmental impact that it will
21 have on the neighbors in the area.

22 Probably 20 years ago Verizon was
23 looking to put a tower in the north end of Hamden.
24 I was president of the Hamden Fish and Game for
25 many years. I sat on the board. I'm currently

1 past president. They came to us with a proposal.
2 I came before the Siting Council many years ago.
3 The reason, again, was there was no cell coverage
4 in the northern part of Hamden, and this would
5 solve the problem. In doing so, the police chief
6 and the fire chief at the time had signed a letter
7 that they would get a position on that tower with
8 no charge.

9 So the tower went up. But it's erected
10 in the woods, hard cover, there's no houses
11 around. It's 150 feet. Went through the gamut,
12 flew the balloon, came to these meetings. So with
13 that being said, there is coverage in the north
14 end. I believe I heard Mr. Sharkey say there's an
15 alternative design that could be looked at. I
16 think that this Council should take a hard look at
17 it.

18 Again, the environmental impact it's
19 going to have on these residents is really not
20 good. I wouldn't want to look out my back window
21 and see a 50 by 50 compound. When they say a
22 compound, with a fence, with utilities, trucks
23 going in and out servicing it. It's just not a
24 good site for these residents. So, once again,
25 I'm opposed to this tower going up. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Kristin Falls.

2 KRISTIN FALLS: Good evening. I'm
3 Kristin Falls. I live at 114 Sky View Circle.
4 And I'm here tonight to voice my strong opposition
5 to the cell phone tower proposal.

6 Like some of the other residents in
7 town, I have Verizon cell phone service, and my
8 cell phone coverage is perfect. As a matter of
9 fact, it's better than your rival, AT&T, which my
10 other family members have. I never have an issue
11 with cell phone service in the neighborhood or
12 surrounding area.

13 In addition, it's just simple common
14 sense that erecting a 160-foot monopole tower in a
15 shadow of a residential area is going to
16 negatively affect property values. This is a
17 beautiful part of Hamden. We have Laurel View
18 Country Club. We live near Paradise Preserve. We
19 have Gaylord and Bethany Mountain behind us. The
20 people in this neighborhood take care of their
21 property. We love our neighbors. We take care of
22 them.

23 This is not the right spot for a cell
24 phone tower. To put it in the middle of a
25 residential area with families, young children,

1 the safety concerns, the environmental impact,
2 it's just not the right spot. I urge you to
3 consider an alternative site if in fact cell phone
4 coverage is needed to be improved in this area and
5 capacity is not sufficient for Verizon's needs.
6 There really should be, in my mind, a balancing of
7 the concerns and the needs of the residents of the
8 area, and also Verizon. And I just urge you to
9 consider the concerns and needs of the residents
10 in this area when you're making your decision.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

13 Michael Luzzi.

14 MICHAEL LUZZI: Good evening. Last
15 name Luzzi, L-U-Z-Z-I. I'm a junior. 2340
16 Shepard Avenue, Hamden.

17 I also do not have a direct stake in
18 this, but as my father stated before, and everyone
19 else has said, the environmental impact, along
20 with the area in which it's being proposed, I
21 believe there's other alternatives in the Town of
22 Hamden. At this point I believe that the concerns
23 of the neighbors, along with the concerns of the
24 party that's fighting the cell phone tower, are
25 valid, should be looked at further, and that there

1 should be alternative sites that are ultimately
2 discovered at this point.

3 I feel as a graduate of Bear Path
4 School that the last thing I want to look at as a
5 kid is 160-foot cell phone tower while I'm outside
6 during recess. I grew up in the neighborhood. I
7 have many friends in the neighborhood. I spend a
8 lot of time there now with family and friends.
9 And I just don't want to go there and see that. I
10 hope the Council would come up with a better
11 alternative for the town and its residents. Thank
12 you.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 Elaine and Adam Thomas. You're both
15 going to speak?

16 ELAINE THOMAS: We could do it
17 separately. I just wasn't sure.

18 Hi. Elaine and Adam Thomas. We're
19 actually new to the neighborhood -- we're husband
20 and wife -- at 38 Country Club Drive. And I think
21 we have a lot of the same concerns that we just
22 heard, property declining, that the value
23 declining is quite a thing for us. We just hit
24 our one-year anniversary in that house. The
25 safety concerns of diesel coming through, the

1 tower possibly falling from storms, or whatever it
2 may be, is another concern of ours being so close
3 to the tower. Another concern that we have is the
4 environmental impact that it will have, cutting
5 through our dead end.

6 We chose that neighborhood to start a
7 family there to send our children to Bear Path.
8 It's a beautiful dead end backed up by a golf
9 course, a Christmas tree farm. This is the last
10 thing we had expected when moving into this
11 section of town. We could have easily chose a
12 more commercial section of town and saved
13 ourselves the money up front. So that's a really
14 big concern of ours. And I personally don't want
15 my children running around where diesel trucks and
16 commercial units are coming through. So that is
17 what I would like to put on record that I strongly
18 oppose this location.

19 ADAM THOMAS: I'd also like to add as a
20 safety concern, I'm assuming nobody is actually
21 guarding this facility, or watching out for this
22 facility every day. So just going back to the
23 kids, from anybody able to get into the area, yes,
24 I know there's a gate, I know there's going to be
25 fencing, but it doesn't prevent anybody from

1 getting into there, especially kids who are very
2 curious.

3 You know, just backing what my wife
4 said, you know, we searched for this house because
5 it was the perfect neighborhood, great neighbors,
6 very good school system, and it was just a
7 no-brainer to live here, and in this town, and
8 everything available to us.

9 I'm just really saddened. I actually
10 work from home a considerable amount. I use my
11 cell phone for every call. I don't get any
12 dropped calls. So there's no coverage issues.
13 And I've lived around 400 feet from a cell tower,
14 so it's not a concern for me.

15 I'm just really saddened that a local
16 business owner would even consider this, and
17 dropped our property value because of it, just
18 really sad. But thank you for allowing us to
19 speak today. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mark and
21 Teresa, is it Peterkin?

22 MARK PETERKIN: Mark Peterkin,
23 P-E-T-E-R-K-I-N, and my wife Teresa.

24 So we own the property at 50 Country
25 Club Drive, which abuts the Christmas tree farm,

1 which literally is where the cell phone tower will
2 be in our backyard, literally. We obviously
3 oppose a cell phone tower, and agree with all of
4 the objections from the former speakers, as well
5 as the mayor, which to me is a pretty strong
6 statement when you have the mayor, the mayor of
7 the town.

8 We, like the previous couple, just
9 moved in about a year ago. And yeah, it's pretty
10 shocking, pretty shocking that something like this
11 could even be considered in a residential
12 neighborhood. You know, honestly, I don't think
13 we need to say a whole lot more than has already
14 been said. I don't even want to think about the
15 idea of trying to sell a house that has a 160-foot
16 cell phone tower in the backyard. We are not
17 Verizon customers. And I can tell you right now,
18 we never will be at this rate.

19 So, yeah, we strongly, strongly,
20 strongly oppose this project. I know that
21 somebody mentioned alternative access sites. We
22 absolutely agree with that. But we feel that this
23 tower doesn't need to be in this area at all. So
24 thank you.

25 TERESA PETERKIN: Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The next
2 speaker, Richard Jaynes.

3 Also, if there are other people who
4 want to speak, would you please sign up because
5 we're getting near the end of those who have
6 signed up. Thank you.

7 RICHARD JAYNES: Richard Jaynes, 13
8 Broken Arrow Road in Hamden.

9 And no, I don't live right next door to
10 where the proposed cell tower is planned to go.
11 However, I am a Christmas tree grower. I've been
12 growing trees in the Town of Hamden for over 70
13 years. I started as a 4-H'er when I was 11. And
14 Joe Vignola is one of the only other tree growers
15 in the Town of Hamden. We're really short of tree
16 growers in New Haven County and Fairfield County.
17 We can't meet the demand. And I see this as an
18 opportunity for him and his family to perhaps
19 continue growing Christmas trees, and to keep that
20 9 acres open.

21 And I had occasion several years ago to
22 speak about a tower 800 feet tall up in our
23 neighborhood. I was one of the few in the
24 neighborhood that thought it was a fine thing. It
25 was on 14 acres, that is 14 acres that's not in

1 houses. Now, mind you, I'm with Broken Arrow
2 Nursery, and we do rely on people who have houses,
3 but as a taxpayer in the Town of Hamden, my
4 understanding is that houses do not help the tax
5 base.

6 I'm also very disappointed, Attorney
7 Sharkey, that the town did not give serious
8 consideration to putting this tower on Hamden
9 land. It would have helped all the tax base to
10 have the income go to the town. I am probably one
11 of the few in here that doesn't carry a cell
12 phone, so I don't have a vested interest in
13 Verizon, or any other cell phone supplier.

14 The alternative, of course, for the
15 Vignolas is if things don't go well with the tree
16 farm, they can develop it and put in houses, and
17 I'm not sure that's any better than a telephone
18 pole that's twice the height of the normal
19 telephone poles. We've gotten used to telephone
20 poles over the last 75 years, and cell phone
21 towers seem to be a necessity. I'm sure they
22 won't be around for too long, but I don't think it
23 would be proposed if it wasn't economical for the
24 corporation that's proposed it. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

1 Suzanne Rossotto.

2 SUZANNE ROSSOTTO: Good evening. I
3 have lived in this neighborhood --

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. Spell your
5 last name.

6 SUZANNE ROSSOTTO: My name is Suzanne
7 Rossotto, R-O-S-S-O-T-T-O.

8 I have lived in this neighborhood since
9 1959. My family owns three houses in this
10 neighborhood. I have lived there when
11 Mr. Vignola's uncle owned the farm and had horses.
12 And it was a very quaint area. And I walked to
13 Bear Path School, and was the first complete class
14 through Bear Path School, walking through a dirt
15 road.

16 I have watched the neighborhood
17 develop. And it's been very conscientious to make
18 it a wonderful residential area. I myself, and my
19 sister, stayed in the neighborhood, plus several
20 other neighbors, because of Bear Path School, and
21 all our children have gone to the school. I think
22 a cell tower of this magnitude is inappropriate on
23 the corner of Country Club Lane. I also think
24 that if you bring the traffic up through Kirk
25 Road, you're making a big mistake, because there

1 are trucks that come up there early in the morning
2 to bring Mr. Vignola large parcels of wood for his
3 firewood company. He cuts firewood and sells it.
4 And it's going to put lots of traffic on Kirk
5 Road, which has no sidewalks. There's elderly
6 that have lived in that neighborhood for 58 years
7 that walk their dogs, and the families and
8 neighbors are very much looking out for each
9 other. I think to increase traffic up there with
10 the school traffic would be very detrimental to
11 everyone. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. David Simon.

13 DAVID SIMON: I'm David Simon,
14 S-I-M-O-N. My wife, Elena, and I live at 11
15 Funaro Road. We've been there for 18 years.

16 We've put a lot of money into improving
17 our property and our house. We just put siding on
18 our house. It was close to \$20,000. And when we
19 retire, if we want to sell the house, we hope
20 nothing would reduce the value after putting so
21 much into improving our house and our property.
22 Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Maria Cornacchia.

24 MARIA CORNACCHIA: Hi. Maria
25 Cornacchia. Do you want me to spell my last name?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Please.

2 MARIA CORNACCHIA: C-O-R-N-A-C-C-H-I-A.

3 We live at 41 Country Club Drive. We've been
4 there for 28 years.

5 We are very upset about this. We had
6 both invested our entire life savings into our
7 home, and it's a shame that Verizon has decided to
8 take a residential neighborhood and turn it into
9 an industrial-like environment.

10 Country Club Drive is a very quiet
11 street. Our house is right on a cul-de-sac.
12 There are no sidewalks. Actually no one even
13 comes down our street unless you live there. It's
14 a very quiet street. Kids ride their bikes.
15 People walk their dogs. We have wildlife and deer
16 wandering the woods. Our entire neighborhood and
17 natural habitat will be destroyed if this happens.
18 A cell phone tower does not belong in a
19 residential neighborhood. It's a no-brainer. And
20 it's a shame that there are no local zoning laws
21 against this.

22 And, most importantly, I'm concerned
23 about the safety of our children. The safety of
24 our children is being compromised, which worries
25 me more than anything else. We have no sidewalks,

1 like I mentioned. The proposed gate that leads to
2 this tower is right next to my house. And my
3 concern is that children will be near enticing
4 fences, diesel generators, truck traffic, et
5 cetera. And for all these reasons I vote against
6 this -- we vote against this. We all vote against
7 this.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Those are all the people
9 who have signed the list. That's both the -- all
10 the people who have signed the list. So the
11 Council will certainly take all of your comments
12 into consideration.

13 So we're now going to close the public
14 comment portion of the hearing. The Council will
15 continue the evidentiary portion of the hearing in
16 New Britain on Tuesday, June 13th, obviously this
17 year, at 1 p.m. So obviously anybody can attend
18 that meeting, and there will be opportunity for
19 the party to present their evidence, and also for
20 cross-examination.

21 Again, please note that anyone who has
22 not become a party, but who desires to make his or
23 her views known to the Council, may file written
24 statements with the Council until the record
25 closes.

1 I did mention that we can't take direct
2 questions, but I'll put this on the applicant. If
3 people have specific questions and want to ask the
4 applicant after I close it, and hopefully some of
5 you guys will stay around, is that acceptable?

6 Copies of the transcript of this
7 hearing will be filed at the Hamden Town Clerk's
8 Office.

9 And I hereby declare this portion of
10 this public hearing adjourned. Thank you all for
11 your participation, and drive home safely.

12 (Whereupon, the above proceedings
13 adjourned at 7:38 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 29 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the Public Comment Session in Re: DOCKET NO. 471, CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED AT 208 KIRK ROAD, HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT, which was held before ROBERT STEIN, CHAIRMAN, at Memorial Town Hall, 2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut, on May 2, 2017.

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Lisa L. Warner, L.S.R., 061
Court Reporter