



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH
California

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 14, 2019
TO: City Council
CC: Ann Ritzma
FROM: Miyuki Yokoyama
RE: Wireless Communication Facilities - Emails

Attached are copies of additional emails received regarding the November 12, 2019 City Council agenda item on the design standards for wireless communication facilities.

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: James Slavet <REDACTED>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 6:04 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Subject: Cell Service in Hillsborough

Dear Hillsborough Council Members,

Our family is in strong support of passing Agenda Item #9 tonight in favor of taking a step towards allowing wireless carriers to install cellular infrastructure in our town with the design standards our town has put in place.

Cellular service is a basic utility that our town can not and should not be voluntarily blocking. We are concerned with the safety and security issues that arise from not having coverage in our homes and schools. This has been recently exacerbated by the rising threat of fires in our area, the inability to communicate with our schools should an emergency arise, and new reality we face in daily life with rolling power outages.

We use Comcast for internet/WiFi, phone, and TV. In the recent power outage, we did not have any method of communication from our home for several days!! We, like most families in our town, rely on these devices to get updates on weather and emergency services, fires, power outages, and a lot of other information. It is not a feasible solution to have to drive to neighboring towns to be able to receive these updates, and it does not make sense to continue putting obstacles in the way of carriers who are ready, willing, and able to build out wireless connectivity in our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Slavet and he Slavet Family
REDACTED, Hillsborough

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Max Shevyakov <REDACTED>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 6:53 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Subject: Please approve cellular service measure

Please vote yes on this.

Max and Alexis

REDACTED

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Sent from some fancy mobile device. Please excuse typos and brevity.

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Arthur Fu <REDACTED>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 7:34 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama

This letter is to demonstrate my strong support of passing Agenda Item #9 tonight in favor of taking a step towards finally allowing wireless carriers to install cellular infrastructure in our town with the design standards our town has put in place. We all have experienced what could happen in our community in the event of a potential natural disaster where the power grid is affected. Not having cellular capabilities makes it near impossible to communicate URGENT information to loved ones. The fires and Pacific Gas and Electric's rolling black outs are an ominous sign of more yet to come.

In the recent power outage, we did not have any method of communication from our home for almost 3 days!! We, like most families in our town, rely on these devices to get updates on weather and emergency services, fires, power outages, and a lot of other information. It is not a feasible solution to have to drive to neighboring towns to be able to receive these updates, and it is unconscionable to continue putting obstacles in the way of carriers who are ready, willing, and able to build out wireless connectivity in our town.

What has been most disappointing is the lack of evidence based health and safety facts individuals are insisting are from cellular tower placement. Anecdotal evidence in the medical profession is considered THE WEAKEST form of scientific methodology. The cynical view is that the "not in my backyard" attitude is driving the intense opposition to cellular tower installation, rather than unprejudiced, confirmed data performed by governmental agencies who have studied this without bias. Fear and intimidation should not be the style in which we converse and solve problems in this community that I love.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Arthur D. Fu MD

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: William Uppington <REDACTED>
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:15 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Cc: REDACTED
Subject: Cellular service

Dear Hillsborough Council Members,

We live in Hillsborough on REDACTED. I am writing because my family is in strong support of passing Agenda Item #9 tonight in favor of taking a step towards finally allowing wireless carriers to install cellular infrastructure in our town with the design standards our town has put in place. We do not have cellular service at our house or for large parts of the lands surrounding Crocker and West where my children are on a daily basis.

We are very concerned with the safety and security issues that arise from not having coverage in our homes and schools. There are many times when we are not able to communicate with family members, parents and our children who have phones. This has been recently exacerbated by the rising threat of fires in our area, the inability to communicate with our schools should an emergency arise, and new reality we face in daily life with rolling power outages.

In the recent power outage, we suffered from incredibly bad cellular service and were unable to communicate or use the internet for long periods of time. The other day, one of our sons walked away from his sisters soccer game. When we were trying to locate him, it was much harder because my wife and I couldn't reliably use our cell phones to make sure we searching for him in a coordinated way. We did ultimately find him by the way. While I understand that certain people do not want to have cellular towers near their homes, we believe we need to be thinking of the overall good. The lack of cellular services makes our families less safe, decreases our property values and makes many things less convenient. The right thing to do is to build out our cellular infrastructure in a way that takes into account the concerns of those who it might negatively but not to the extent of preventing progress towards better cellular coverage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
XXXX

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Tal Simon <REDACTED>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 2:27 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Subject: Re: Cellular Service in Hillsborough

Hi Miyuki.
I just wanted to add my address for the record.
It is REDACTED
Thanks

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Jaret Butler <REDACTED>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Subject: Cellular service in Hillsborough

Hello Ms. Yokoyama,

I am writing to express my strong support of the efforts to establish improved cellular signal throughout Hillsborough. The most pressing reason is to improve the safety for our town. Communication is vital for all town members including the elderly, those with young children as well as for all others who are living in or visiting Hillsborough. Though I can sympathize with some of the concerns expressed by those who oppose the cell towers, none of the concerns outweighs the concern for safety.

Most sincerely,
Jaret Butler, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon Palo Alto Medical Foundation

Sent from my iPad

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Rhoda Longhenry <REDACTED>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Subject: Cellular Service in Hillsborough

Dear Hillsborough Council Members,

My family is in strong support of taking the necessary step towards finally allowing wireless carriers to install cellular infrastructure in our town with the design standards our town has put in place. We do not have great cellular service at our house and at North School where my children attend on a daily basis.

In this day and age, cellular service is a basic utility that our town can not and should not be voluntarily blocking. Furthermore, we are increasingly concerned with the safety and security issues that arise from not having coverage in our homes and schools. This has been recently exacerbated by the rising threat of fires in our area, the inability to communicate with our schools should an emergency arise, and new reality we face in daily life with rolling power outages.

To give you a sense of specifically why this is a problem, we use Comcast for internet/WiFi/WiFi calling, phone, and TV. In the recent power outage, we did not have any method of communication from our home for almost 3 days!!

In addition, our fire and burglar alarm systems rely on a cellular connection to communicate with our monitoring company and first responders. Despite numerous attempts at technical workarounds, we are unable to maintain a stable connection due to the lack of wireless infrastructure in Hillsborough. In the event of an emergency, our family and, potentially, our neighbors could be at risk if there were a delay in notifying first responders due to a poor cellular connection.

We, like most families in our town, rely on these devices to get updates on weather and emergency services, fires, power outages, and a lot of other information. It is not a feasible solution to have to drive to neighboring towns to be able to receive these updates, and it is unconscionable to continue putting obstacles in the way of carriers who are ready, willing, and able to build out wireless connectivity in our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Longhenry Family
REDACTED
Hillsborough, CA 94010

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Annie Pong <REDACTED>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 4:27 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama; Larry May
Cc: Patrick Shannon; John Shupe; Al Royse; Mchuang@hillsborough.met; Jay Benton
Subject: Request

Dear Hillsborough Representatives.

I was quite disappointed with the council meeting debate on 5G cell towers 11/12.

It looks like the changes to the design standards came straight from the mouths of the cell phone companies. So I am requesting the committee not to rush, get a legal brief and a technical report from experts first so we can evaluate if there is a real need for any changes to the legislation recently adopted. We want to do the right thing.

Thank You for your time.

Annie Pong
REDACTED
Hillsborough.

the committee to get a legal brief and a technical report from staff first so we can evaluate whether there is a compelling need for any changes to our recently-adopted legislation in the first place. A

Bed,Sent from my iPhone

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Ryan Clark <REDACTED>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 7:32 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Subject: Message to Hillsborough Council Members

Dear Hillsborough City Council,

Thank you for considering allowing wireless towers in Hillsborough. I am just one family in Hillsborough (have lived here for 9 years), but am probably fairly typical of this town's younger demographic, with a daughter in 4th grade at South School and a son at 1st grade in South School. My wife and I both work full time to be able to afford to live in such a nice community. We are both graduates of business school and in our mid 40's, and we use our iPhones as our primary method of communication with the world – work, friends, and family – ridesharing, food delivery, and payments. It is incredibly frustrating (and shocking) that I have to drive my car to San Mateo to get cell service to make phone calls; that when I'm at school with my children or coaching my son's soccer, I get no cell service and am not reachable (for even emergencies), that when I am on a work call to go home to see my family, I lose all service entering Hillsborough. It's not clear to me why this town (in the middle of Silicon Valley/San Francisco) would have such a backwards rule, and I'm not even sure what could possibly be a rationale argument not to have cellular service. Were there to be a fire, were there to be an emergency, and our power/WIFI went out, we would have no communication with anyone, and would not be reachable. If this situation were to present itself, and were there to be any loss of life or injury, this issue would go from being irrational to tragic.

Thank you for the time – I rarely get involved in politics, local or federal, but when I see something this absurd, I need to say something.

Thank you,

Ryan

J. Ryan Clark

REDACTED

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Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Chris Harris <REDACTED>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 8:34 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Cc: Jamie Harris
Subject: Cell Coverage in Hillsborough

Dear Hillsborough Council Members,

My family is in strong support of taking the necessary step towards finally allowing wireless carriers to install cellular infrastructure in our town with the design standards our town has put in place. The cellular service at our house is very poor and I often drop calls. In addition, the cellular service at our kids' school (South School) is completely lacking.

In this day and age, cellular service is a basic utility that our town cannot and should not be voluntarily blocking. My sister lives in rural Peru and has significantly better cell service than we do in the middle of Silicon Valley. Furthermore, we are increasingly concerned with the safety and security issues that arise from not having coverage in our homes and schools. This has been recently exacerbated by the rising threat of fires in our area, the inability to communicate with our schools should an emergency arise, and new reality we face in daily life with rolling power outages.

To give you a sense of specifically why this is a problem, we use Comcast for internet/WiFi/WiFi calling, phone, and TV. In the recent power outage, we had very limited communication from our home for almost 3 days!

We, like most families in our town, rely on these devices to get updates on weather and emergency services, fires, power outages, and a lot of other information. It is not a feasible solution to have to drive to neighboring towns to be able to receive these updates, and it is unconscionable to continue putting obstacles in the way of carriers who are ready, willing, and able to build out wireless connectivity in our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
The Harris Family
REDACTED

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Larry Friedberg <REDACTED>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 8:05 AM
To: Shawn Christianson
Cc: REDACTED; Al Royse; Jay Benton; Larry May; Marie Chuang; Miyuki Yokoyama Cell
Subject: Towers: Equal Interest is a Flawed Argument

Dear Mayor Christianson,

Your closing comment during last night's Town Council meeting surprised me. If I heard correctly, the comment suggested that there were two sides to the issue of adopting the redlined version of our own hard-won Resolution: Those who favored cell towers and those who did not.

Let's start with the fact that there is only one side in the goal of achieving better cell coverage. We ALL want better cell coverage. Where the difference lies is in HOW that improved cell coverage is achieved and under what conditions.

The other part of your comment implied that the two positions on how we achieve improved cell coverage are of equal value.

This is where the logic becomes murky.

If we consider the primary reasons why people move to Hillsborough, you can pick from any and all of the following:

1. Beautiful, rustic charm
2. Schools
3. Larger parcels than surrounding communities
4. Home values
5. The people
6. Proximity to San Francisco
7. Views of the East Bay or San Francisco

And so on.

Were you to list the top 10 reasons why people move to Hillsborough you'd be hard pressed to find "cell coverage" among them. Furthermore, the people who move here for the town's aesthetics, which is likely to be in the top 2 - 3 reasons, have more of a claim to higher ground than those who seek to undermine the most important factor that sets living in this town apart. Oliver Wendell Holmes famously said, "The right to swing my fist ends where the other man's nose begins." Those who are willing to jeopardize the physical beauty of Hillsborough with what will be hundreds of cell towers subordinates the position of those of us who placed so high a value on this quality.

Should you yield to the carriers, you are actually putting the needs of the very few above the needs of the many.

I would add that those who elect to move here, knowing full well that our topography presents any number of challenges, including cellular coverage, have the option of cable and a wifi network. Furthermore, I am skeptical that the 16 people who emailed you did so to support gutting our aesthetic protections. They probably only said they want better cell coverage. But they can get better cell coverage with the CURRENT ordinance.

Amendments are not needed to move forward. Carriers can apply under our moderate, model laws. If the 16 understood that, I bet they would take the position that the Town should abandon the telco lawyers' proposed amendments and move forward.

What those of us who value the physical beauty of Hillsborough are saying is this: Yes, to better cell coverage. However, not when it conflicts with our town's rustic nature. We implore cell companies to build technology that is visually pleasing or at the very least camouflaged. This is not downtown Redwood City. It's Hillsborough. Instead of using whatever is cost effective for them, employ R&D resources that result in the creation of equipment that complies with our standards.

Sincerely,
Larry Friedberg
REDACTED

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Larry Friedberg
REDACTED

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: Tony Ling <REDACTED>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 9:50 AM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Subject: Cellular Towers support

Dear Hillsborough Council Members,

My family is in strong support of taking the necessary step towards finally allowing wireless carriers to install cellular infrastructure in our town with the design standards our town has put in place. We have very spotty cellular service at our house (REDACTED) and at North School where my children attend on a daily basis.

In this day and age, cellular service is a basic utility that our town can not and should not be voluntarily blocking. Furthermore, we are increasingly concerned with the safety and security issues that arise from not having coverage in our homes and schools. This has been recently exacerbated by the rising threat of fires in our area, the inability to communicate with our schools should an emergency arise, and new reality we face in daily life with rolling power outages.

To give you a sense of specifically why this is a problem, we use Comcast for internet/WiFi/WiFi calling, phone, and TV. In the recent power outage, we did not have any method of communication from our home for almost 3 days!!

In addition, our fire and burglar alarm systems rely on a cellular connection to communicate with our monitoring company and first responders. Despite numerous attempts at technical workarounds, we are unable to maintain a stable connection due to the lack of wireless infrastructure in Hillsborough. In the event of an emergency, our family and, potentially, our neighbors could be at risk if there were a delay in notifying first responders due to a poor cellular connection.

We, like most families in our town, rely on these devices to get updates on weather and emergency services, fires, power outages, and a lot of other information. It is not a feasible solution to have to drive to neighboring towns to be able to receive these updates, and it is unconscionable to continue putting obstacles in the way of carriers who are ready, willing, and able to build out wireless connectivity in our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
The Ling Family
REDACTED
Hillsborough, CA 94010

Miyuki Yokoyama

From: John Sheputis <REDACTED>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2019 7:24 PM
To: Miyuki Yokoyama
Cc: Tal Simon; Susie Campbell
Subject: Re: Cellular Service in Hillsborough

Dear Hillsborough Council Members,

My family is in strong support of allowing wireless carriers to install cellular infrastructure in our town with the design standards our town has put in place. This can be done tastefully and in a way that enhances the safety and value of living in our town.

The cellular service at our house (REDACTED) or at North / Crocker School where my children attend on a daily basis is poor.

Use of mobile phones and access to cellular service is a basic utility that our town can should support.

We are increasingly concerned with the safety and security issues that arise from not having coverage in our homes and schools. This has been recently exacerbated by the rising threat of fires in our area, the inability to communicate with our schools should an emergency arise, and new reality we face in daily life with rolling power outages.

To give you a sense of specifically why this is a problem, we use Comcast for internet/WiFi/WiFi calling, phone, and TV. In the recent power outage, we did not have any method of communication from our home for almost 3 days. My wife (Susie Campbell) had to walk 1/3 of a mile to make a call.

We, like most families in our town, rely on these devices to get updates on weather and emergency services, fires, power outages, and a lot of other information. It is not a feasible solution to have to drive to neighboring towns to be able to receive these updates, and it is unconscionable to continue putting obstacles in the way of carriers who are ready, willing, and able to build out wireless connectivity in our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

John Sheputis

Campbell - Sheputis Family
REDACTED
Hillsborough CA, 94010