

RECEIVED

11/25/2014

November 20, 2014

**CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS**

Re: Verizon cell tower on Bullene Ave

Dear City Commissioners:

I recently learned about the Verizon cell tower proposed to be built just approximately 250 plus feet from my Tenants to Homeowners house on Bullene Ave. I am very distressed about this and sincerely hope you will not approve the special use permit needed for this project

Ever since the Burroughs Trail was built (it's basically in my back yard) each year more and more people use it: bicyclists, strollers, families, dog walkers, children, older walkers, and myself. I believe that the location of this tower will negatively impact the Trail's use since it will be within a stone's throw of the trail. People will be alarmed to be in such close proximity.

In addition, this is a fledging neighborhood, growing more and more residential over the last 5-10 years. Many Habitat to Humanity houses were built on the adjoining streets before and after the Tenants to Homeowners houses were built. Everyone in the immediate area is interested in the neighborhood's viability, safety, aesthetics, and treasure their homes. This is in keeping with the spirit and letter of the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan which emphasizes this area as one to be changed from industrial, to a more residential and limited commercial area. The location of this proposed tower is in industrial zoning, and if it were proposed as a 75 foot tower would not even need your special use permit. However, they propose a 120 foot tower. The Burroughs plan called for zoning changes in the neighborhood to reflect the new residential and commercial aspects of its proposed growth, since the railroad spur was long gone and industry is not the primary component of our area. These proposed zoning changes suggested in the Corridor Plan apparently were not followed through.

If you review the Burroughs Creek Corridor plan you will see, in the last section, through logical reasoning, why this cell tower should not be approved at 1725 Bullene. That is just one argument in opposition to this project. There are many more.

I am very proud to have been able to buy this home through Tenants to Homeowners over five years ago, and although there have been a few turnovers in this development on Bullene Ave. most people (as I have) bought with the intention of staying put. We are not high dollar folks and cannot easily relocate even if we wanted to. I also know that were I wishing to resell, the cell tower would certainly be an impediment to resale. Regardless, I've lived in Lawrence 28 years and it took 22 years here before I was able to buy this house. I hope you can empathize with the feelings of unease that this has aroused.

Page 2, Re: Verizon cell tower on Bullene Ave.

There is a taller structure that this can be built upon just south of 19th St., which is the grain elevator. I learned that it was not proved to the planning commission that this avenue was a dead end. Why is this not being explored further? I think that should be addressed and considered more fully before you make a final decision.

Also, there was no (or little) publicity about the planning commission meeting, held on November 17, who unanimously approved this project. I sincerely hope you do not approve the special use permit allowing the Verizon cell tower to be built at 1725 Bullene Ave.

Finally, since this proposal just came to the attention of our neighborhood, after the Planning Commission approved it, and considering that Thanksgiving is just around the corner, I am requesting that you delay even placing this on your agenda for at least a week after Dec. 2, to give our neighborhood more time to gather public input. I appreciate your consideration of this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jane Live
1701 Bullene Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66044
843-4810

Retired from KU Continuing Education support staff (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and currently atemporary para educator at Kennedy Elementary School . Volunteer at LINK. Local volunteer musician.



Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

Andrea Repinsky, President
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November 17, 2014

Bryan Culver, Chair
Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission
6 East 6th Street
Lawrence KS 66044

Dear Commissioners:

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association is opposed to the construction of a cell tower at 1725 Bullene. The proposed tower would negatively impact users of the Burroughs Creek Trail and the adjacent residents because of visual disruption, impairment to recreational assets, and negative health impacts.

The Burroughs Creek Trail is an incredibly important recreational and transportation asset to the Brook Creek Neighborhood and the City, one that required tremendous effort on the part of Brook Creek and other neighborhoods to develop. This degree of disruption to the scenic value of the trail is a disservice to the community. The visual impact of the proposed tower was underestimated, as it was assessed while trees were fully in leaf, and the view of the tower location was more obscured than it is now.

Increasing the intensity of the industrial use on the site is inconsistent with the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan of 2006, which recommends that "when redevelopment of industrially zoned areas is proposed in the future, these areas should be scrutinized for neighborhood compatibility." In no way is a 120-ft tower, located 135 feet from the nearest house, compatible or appropriate to the residential area. In the plan, the site, 1725 Bullene, was recommended to be rezoned from M-1A to C-4. The site should become less industrial, not more.

The staff report neglects to review the full visual impact of a 120-ft tower. Imagine its equivalent, a 10-story building, in order to understand how this tower is entirely inappropriate 135 feet away from a single-family residence. The proposed 6' metal fence, topped with an additional foot of barbed wire, is also inconsistent with the adjacent homes. The applicant's claim that the proposed tower is compatible with adjacent residential uses, and would not diminish the value of these homes, is a claim we do not accept.

Additionally, the health impacts of a microwave radiofrequency radiation (RF) have not been addressed by the City or applicant. The intensity of radiation, and the health effects, are greatest near the transmitter. Multiple studies link RF exposure with genotoxic effects such as gene mutations, cancer, neurological disease such as Alzheimers & Parkinson's, reproductive disorders, and immune dysfunction.

Many questions remain. We doubt the utility of the low elevation site to best serve the purpose of the tower. Very little information was provided to the City and the public about the selection of the small, mostly residential, site search area, and alternate sites or solutions.

Please protect the health and vitality of the neighborhood, and reject the proposed tower.

Andrea Repinsky
President, Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Wharff [<mailto:mgwharff@sunflower.com>]

Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2014 3:47 PM

To: Sandra Day

Subject: cell tower burroughs trail

Please don't build a cell tower near Burroughs Trail or the homes in the area. Burroughs Trail is all about natural environment AND good health — neither of which will be served by a cell tower in the vicinity.

Thanks,

Mary Wharff

1535 Rhode Island St.

Former President, Barker Neighborhood Association