FOUNTAIN CITY TOWN HALL, INC.
PO BOX 18001
KNOXVILLE, TN 37928-8001

June 6, 2015

5-B-15-UR: Branch, Telecommunications Tower, NW Side of Ridgecrest Drive, East of Hollyhock Lane

Dear Commissioner:

The Board of Fountain City Town Hall, Inc., respectfully requests that the above captioned cell tower application be postponed until a thorough search and analysis is conducted of less intrusive sites that could meet the service needs.

We understand that federal regulations limit the actions of local government regarding cell towers. However, all regulations, including the adopted **Wireless Communications Facilities Plan,** recognize that every effort should be made to place towers in the most unobtrusive locations possible in our community while meeting service needs.

The proposed location is in an **Avoidance and/or Sensitive** site category based on site characteristics specifically noted in the Wireless Communications Facilities Plan. The site is on a ridge, on an undeveloped residential lot in the middle of an R-1, low-density residential neighborhood. This is an area where many neighbors purchased homes to enjoy the view from atop a ridge.

Unfortunately, at the June 4 meeting at the Lion's Club the representatives from Branch, while polite and likeable, were not engineers and were unable to answer specific questions regarding less intrusive sites.

Citizens in attendance suggested several specific, less intrusive locations be considered. The meeting ended with Branch representatives promising that they would indeed follow-up with an analysis of those sites and requesting that citizens phone in additional potential sites. To our amazement, a Branch representative pointed out that members of the community, not Branch, know the area best regarding potential telecommunication tower sites, and therefore the citizens should suggest telecommunication tower locations for consideration.

Assuming Branch is actually willing to consider other sites, it would seem necessary to allow a reasonable amount of time for the investigation and to meet with the community regarding its findings.

We realize that Mr. Perry, MPC's consultant, concluded in his 3-26-15 Report to MPC, that *"In light of the review of Documents…the applicant meets all requirements of the Ordinance and federal requirements…."* However, it must be recognized that Mr. Perry's service to MPC is limited.

That service does **not** include an independent search for, and identification of, other potentially suitable locations. And, even though the application's proposed site is in an Avoidance and/or Sensitive category, the consultant's scope of service to MPC does **not** include requesting or requiring the applicant provide documentation that less intrusive locations have been considered.

As a result, the only less intrusive sites reported by and rejected by the applicant, were existing towers, the easiest locations to identify and exclude.

Given the fact that the site is in the Avoidance and/or Sensitive category of the adopted Wireless Communications Facilities Plan, the residents of the community deserve every assurance that less intrusive sites have been thoroughly considered.

For this reason we ask that the application be postponed.

If the application is not postponed or denied, approval should be conditioned to require the least intrusive tower design for the location. Waivers of required landscaping should not be granted.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Davis and Carlene Malone, Co-Chairs, Land Use Committee

Gmail by Google

Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

[MPC Comment] May 14 Agenda Item: Proposed Telecommunication Tower - Ridgecrest Drive, 37918

S Matheny <szmatheny@gmail.com> Sat, Jun 6, 2015 at 11:42 PM
Reply-To: szmatheny@gmail.com
To: commission@knoxmpc.org

RE: BRANCH TOWERS 5-B-15-UR Northwest side of Ridgecrest Dr., east of Hollyhock Ln.
Proposed use: 150' Monopole Telecommunication Tower in R-1 (Low Density Residential) District. Council District 4.

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to add a brief postscript to my earlier e-mail of May 5.

I have lived in this neighborhood for 14 years and am co-chair of our Top of the Ridge Neighborhood Watch which encompasses Martha Berry, Ridgecrest and Sherwood Forest residences.

- *In all my years here I have never seen or experienced my neighbors to be so truly disheartened, discouraged and upset over an issue. I would even describe the mood and feelings not unlike a grieving process. It is real and it is palpable; it is literally depressing for all the myriad reasons so many are expressing. Dreams and hopes for a certain quality of life are threatened.*

Our neighborhood is classified as a "sensitive" and "avoidance" area. Surely there are other possibilities more appropriate for this tower. Please insist that a more appropriate alternative area be located.

And, please do not discount the importance of the *emotiona*l impact - short and long term - this is having on us, as individuals, young and old, long time and new residents.

With respect,

Suzanne Matheny
Co-Chair, Top of the Ridge Neighborhood Watch
(865) 689-3147

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Gmail by Google

Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

[MPC Comment] Case #5-B-15-UR

1 message

Diana McDonald <mcdontc@comcast.net> Sun, Jun 7, 2015 at 9:15 PM
Reply-To: mcdontc@comcast.net
To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Hello. We are the McDonald family living on Belcaro Drive (just up the road from Martha Berry Drive). I am emailing you to let you know of our opposition to the proposed telecom tower to be built on Ridgecrest Drive/Martha Berry.

We do NOT want the tower to be built at this location which is directly on the Fountain City Dogwood Trail. It would completely take away from the natural beauty of this Fountain City neighborhood. Please take every precaution necessary to see that this tower is not built at this location.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Tim & Diana McDonald

Josh, Spencer, Amanda, & Megan

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Gmail by Google

Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

[MPC Comment] Attn Jack Sharp

1 message

Rachelle Peck-Baumann <treelemur@hotmail.com> Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 9:39 AM
Reply-To: treelemur@hotmail.com
To: "commission@knoxmpc.org" <commission@knoxmpc.org>

Jack Sharp:

I am concerned about the proposed placement and height of a telecom tower in the middle of my neighborhood on Ridgecrest/Martha Berry Drive (Case # 5-B-15-UR). We recently bought our home in the neighborhood, in part because of the feel of seclusion and the gorgeous view of the mountains we see every day as we drive up to our home on the ridge. The addition of a telecom tower would, no doubt, hinder this beautiful, unobstructed view and would change the peaceful feel of our neighborhood.

Our neighborhood is full of nice homes, and we paid good money for ours. In addition, our taxes are almost double what they were at our old house, in a less established neighborhood. Having a beautiful, mature neighborhood full of nice homes should count for something when considering locations for a tower. That's part of the reason we bought here. There is no reason to plant a huge, ugly tower right in the middle of a nice, peaceful neighborhood. Our neighborhood is even considered a "Sensitivity" and "Avoidance" area. That should mean something! T Mobile says they checked out other sites, but that there's no other site that would work.

I'm sorry, but I find it extremely hard to believe that my neighborhood on the Dogwood Trail is the only place in the city of Knoxville that will work. It seems to be that there are plenty of more commercial areas or less established areas around, that might be better suited if a telecom tower is absolutely necessary. At the meeting with Branch Communications, there was even a gentleman in the area that offered to sell a nearby plot of land to them. What's the point in labeling a neighborhood an "Avoidance" area if the company can get around it by providing proof of checking into one other existing tower, and then calling it quits? We need to stand up for our mature, ridgetop neighborhoods, not allow ourselves to be pushed around by a corporation that's not even from this area!

I urge you to PLEASE reconsider the placement of the tower in our beautiful neighborhood. The last thing people looking for a little seclusion want to see is a huge metal communications tower blocking what used to be our view of the mountains.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Rachelle Peck-Baumann
2109 Belcaro Drive

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