

Andrew Leon

From: Evan Maxim
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Mona Davis
Cc: Andrew Leon
Subject: FW: Verizon 5G cell tower at Ellis Pond

FYI

Regards,

[Evan Maxim](#)

Director

City of Mercer Island - Community Planning & Development

206.275.7732 | mercergov.org/CPD |

LET'S TALK
Mercer Island

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From: Ali Spietz <Ali.Spietz@mercergov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 2:13 PM
To: Washington Laurensens <walaurensens@gmail.com>
Cc: Council <council@mercergov.org>; Evan Maxim <evan.maxim@mercergov.org>; Jessi Bon <jessi.bon@mercergov.org>
Subject: RE: Verizon 5G cell tower at Ellis Pond

Hello Mrs. Laurensen,

Thank you for your comments to the City Council and City Manager. We think Mercer Island and Ellis Pond are beautiful places too, which makes this a difficult issue.

Small cells have been hot topic on Mercer Island, and I wanted to make sure you are aware of changes to the regulations in the last 10 months or so. The FCC has issued a “[new rule](#)” which curtails the City’s authority to review small cells in a number of ways – notably the City cannot prevent the installation of small cells, or “densifying” the wireless coverage (page 16 of the PDF, item 36 and subsequent). This new rule limits the City’s ability to require a change in the location of the small cell, though we will be applying pressure on Crown Castle to address neighborhood concerns. The City has also established a webpage that has background information on our current regulations and long term thinking, which may be of use: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/small-cells>.

The FCC’s new rule has been appealed by a number of cities (including Bellevue, Seattle, Portland, LA). To date, the appeal has not moved very far through the judicial process. Because the FCC’s new rule is “in force” until the appeal is resolved, the City has adopted interim standards (here: <https://mercerisland.municipal.codes/MICC/19.06.070>) that are intended to focus on minimizing the aesthetic impact to the extent feasible. Longer term, we are currently anticipating that we will adopt new, permanent standards that will also be intended to minimize the aesthetic impact of small cells. Things like, enhanced limits on noise, requiring the undergrounding of power, creating incentives for collocation, requiring hollow poles with internal equipment and antenna mounts, will be discuss more fully by the Planning

Commission and City Council. **Please note:** a rezone of the property to commercial is not a requirement of this application.

Despite the City's limited authority to affect the small cell locations, please know that we are conveying the comments to Crown Castle and we will continue to advocate on behalf of the community – in this particular case for a different small cell location.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Ali

Allison (Ali) Spietz

Assistant to the City Manager

City of Mercer Island

206-275-7667 | mercergov.org

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From: Washington Laurensens <walaurensens@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 1:20 PM

To: Council <council@mercergov.org>

Cc: walaurensens@gmail.com

Subject: Verizon 5G cell tower at Ellis Pond

Dear City Council Member of Mercer Island,

I have received notice about a 35 foot cell tower that is proposed to go into our neighborhood at Ellis Pond.

I oppose the Verizon Cell Tower at Ellis Pond.

This cell tower at Ellis Pond would drastically and negatively impact the entire neighborhood decreasing it's quality of living and character and home values. One defining reason of wanting to purchase in the Ellis Pond neighborhood was no utility poles, wires, lights. This unnecessary tower would lead to more towers, poles, wires, devices ect. I do not want this cell tower. 5G is unnecessary in this neighborhood.

Please, I strongly urge the City Council of Mercer Island to work together and help find a reasonable alternative. This tower is massive and does not need to be placed permanently at Ellis Pond and in our Ellis Pond neighborhood.

It is upsetting that telecom carries are making plans that impact human beings, our environment, homes and their values, and healthy neighborhoods disregarding quality of life and being insensitive to the concerns of the local homeowners, and tax paying residents of Mercer Island. Please, no cell tower at Ellis Pond on Mercer Island.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate that the city and our city council is trying to stay in front of the 5G issue to preserve our quality of life which many residents cherish on Mercer Island in Washington State. Please continue to help our Ellis Pond neighborhood and Mercer Island. I'm sure a lot more needs to be done to preserve the Mercer Island many residents cherish.

Regards,

Mrs. Laurenson