

Andrew Leon

From: Evan Maxim
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 2:00 PM
To: Andrew Leon; Mona Davis
Subject: FW: Verizon Ellis Pond Cell Tower

FYI

Regards,

Evan Maxim

Director

City of Mercer Island - Community Planning & Development

206.275.7732 | mercergov.org/CPD |



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From: Debbie Bertlin <Debbie.Bertlin@mercergov.org>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2019 7:45 AM
To: RICHARD BRODY <richarddbrody@msn.com>
Cc: Evan Maxim <evan.maxim@mercergov.org>; Jessi Bon <jessi.bon@mercergov.org>
Subject: Re: Verizon Ellis Pond Cell Tower

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Brody;

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the proposed specific installation as well as the plan of the cellular companies to proliferate small cells and infrastructure.

I share your concerns and will continue to work to conditionalize the deployments to the extent currently (legally) possible and look for ways to manage in the coming months and years. As you likely know, the FCC has given tremendous rights to these companies and limited greatly the rights of local municipalities.

The Planning Commission will take up the code this fall and hold public hearings. The Council will then review the proposed code, likely later this fall and early 2020. Meanwhile we will be tracking other cities' efforts to contain the privileges of the companies and look for opportunities to partner legally and potentially legislatively.

Regarding the specific noise factor, there are documented limitations and from what I understand vis a vis our Planning Department, there have been successful efforts to preserve the quiet that characterizes our neighborhoods. Director Maxim and staff should be able to provide specifics.

I am copying Evan Maxim, Director on this email. He will be driving the efforts regarding small cell and 5G installation. We as a City will work to keep you apprised and reach out for assistance as we go forward.

Again, thank you for reaching out and expressing your concerns.

Kind regards,

Debbie Bertlin

Mayor, Mercer Island City Council

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From: RICHARD BRODY <richarddbrody@msn.com>

Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2019 5:03 PM

To: Council

Subject: Verizon Ellis Pond Cell Tower

We wanted to write you regarding the recent posting for comment on a proposed cell tower at the intersection of 91st Ave. SE and SE 46th St. There are multiple concerns of our neighbors, to which we find an affinity and understanding and thus are against the prospect of this project.

Ours is a quiet, “dead-end” neighborhood, meaning that it’s quite private and that is one of the things that attracted us to our home here in 1983. In addition, the feature of Ellis Pond and the small walking bridge across the wooded area adjacent to the pond adds a lot of character. We’re also proud of our underground wiring, a feature not enjoyed by a lot of neighborhoods, but one which makes ours quite special. We feel that for several reasons, these values will be challenged by the advent of this cellular tower.

The proposed tower is to be erected a full block from SE 47th and 91st SE, where the power for it will be derived. Unless the wiring for the power is done underground, there will be the addition of several power poles to string the electrical power and add a blight to our otherwise “wireless” surroundings. The result will have a negative impact on our property values.

Its proposed location is in a city green area, and adding an ugly tower will disrupt the serenity of the Ellis Pond area.

We’ve heard that these towers require a cooling fan which needs to be operating all the time, creating a noise level that will also have an adverse effect on the otherwise quietness we’ve become accustomed to.

Lastly, we’re concerned that the freewheeling cellular companies will add many more towers to the Mercer Island neighborhoods, and going unrestricted without proper City supervision and direction, will create a jungle-like appearance all over Mercer Island of boundless wires on every street and street corner.

We urge the Council to review the City’s bylaws to protect the interests of its residents and to control the future establishment of such installations to be in character with the ideals of our City.

Richard and Marilyn Brody
9120 SE 46th Street

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