From: Architectural Review Board
To: Lew, Alex; Osma Thompson (osma.thompson@gmail.com); Baltay, Peter; Gooyer, Robert; Furth, Wynne
Cc: Atkinson, Rebecca; French, Amy
Subject: FW: Verizon cell nodes
Date: Monday, March 12, 2018 10:00:14 AM

From: Francesca [mailto:dfkautz@pacbell.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 10:07 PM
To: Architectural Review Board
Cc: Council, City; Clerk, City
Subject: Verizon cell nodes

Dear Architectural Review Board,

My name is Francesca Kautz and I have lived for over 50 years in Palo Alto, the last 32 of which have been in the same house in the cluster 1 neighborhood. I am very concerned about the ugliness of the cell nodes, the noise, safety and impossibility of under grounding our utilities.

If Verizon wants to increase their network coverage and capacity by locating their wireless communication facilities closer to the user, they must put their cellular networks underground. Putting them on the telephone poles will make under grounding our utilities impossible. There is nothing small about the 200 pound *small cells* and they do not minimize visual impact to the existing surroundings. They do not blend in the neighborhood, but stick out like sore thumbs, make noise and may negatively impact public health, safety and welfare. Once a site is erected, Verizon can go back and increase its size provided that the changes do not exceed federal standards.

There are many city-owned structures, commercial and industrial buildings in Palo Alto where Verizon can rent space for their nodes and not destroy our neighborhoods. Verizon has demonstrated a lack of consideration for the surrounding environment and will make our neighborhoods aesthetically unpleasing. The cell nodes are visually intrusive and not architecturally compatible in any way with the neighborhood. It is not fair that while Verizon is generating $60 billion in profit per quarter, we homeowners get to foot the bill to have our neighborhoods destroyed and are liable should a telephone pole with a cell node on it cause damage or hurt someone in an earthquake or fire.

I don't think that Verizon should scare us into believing that we need these small cells in case of an emergency. The systems we currently have in place work fine and cell phone coverage in our neighborhood is good. Many of the benefits the wireless industry extols can be obtained using current LTE-based technologies and the primary use of small cells is mobile video. I am also concerned that in an earthquake the bayonet placed on the top of the telephone pole may fall down and spear someone. (See photos below.) Has the seismic performance of these configurations been tested on earthquake shaking tables?

Please deny Verizon's request to put the cell nodes in our residential neighborhoods, as they are ugly, noisy, dangerous and threaten under grounding of our utilities in the future.

Thank you,

Francesca Kautz

P.S. *Top 10 Things the Wireless Industry Doesn't Tell You about Small Cells:*

http://www.steelintheair.com/Blog/2017/04/top-10-things-the-wireless-industry-doesnt-tell-you-about-small-cells.html

Photos taken in front of 179 Lincoln Ave.: