From:	Architectural Review Board
To:	Atkinson, Rebecca
Cc:	French, Amy; Lew, Alex; Osma Thompson (osma.thompson@gmail.com); Baltay, Peter; Gooyer, Robert; Furth, Wynne
Subject:	FW: Stop the Verizon small cell tower installation
Date:	Monday, May 21, 2018 9:40:24 AM

From: Bryan Chan [mailto:chan_bk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 11:01 PM
To: Council, City; Clerk, City; Architectural Review Board; Planning Commission
Cc: Henderson, Todd
Subject: Stop the Verizon small cell tower installation

Dear Members of the City Council, ARB and Planning Commission,

I am a resident in midtown Palo Alto live 600 feet from one of the proposed cell tower installation that was approved by the ARB. First of all, I would like to voice my opposition to this decision which was flawed. How does the Architectural Review Board have the power to decide on the installation of hundreds of pounds of electrical equipment around the city? Shouldn't this be a decision made by the Planning Commission? This isn't really and architectural issue in the first place and thus it make no sense that the final decision should fall under the Architectural Review Board. They make decisions based on aesthetics on a case-by-case basis, which is fine for buildings or homes, but not for citywide deployment of industrial equipment. If this were a decision on installing a nuclear disposal waste site, would it make sense for the ARB to have the final decision on this? Of course not!

In addition, on a technical note, Verizon's recently resubmitted plans appears to be incomplete compared with their prior application -- they failed to include detailed specifications of their "new equipment" (weight, size, etc...) and they failed to submit third party structural modelling of the "new equipment" and its impact on the structural integrity of the telephone poles (bending moment, load testing, etc...). Despite this, the ARB still approved the project with their decision based largely on aesthetics rather than true need and this is yet another reason to overturn their decision.

In most major cities, the installation of industrial equipment, especially hundreds of cell phone towers, falls under the jurisdiction of the Planning Commission. According to the Planning Commissions' webpage, their main mission is: "Preparing and making recommendations to the City Council on the City's Comprehensive Plan regarding development, public facilities and transportation in Palo Alto". I believe that the City of Palo Alto Planning Commission needs to have one or more public hearings about small cell tower installations and that this is where the decisions should be made.

Specifically, I ask that the City Council overturn this decision by the ARB and then work closely with the Planning Commission to draw up a concrete and comprehensive plan regarding wireless technology deployment in the City. Please remember that this set of initial Verizon small cell towers will be the first of hundreds of such cell towers. We need the comprehensive plan to address if, how and when these towers get installed.

Thank you,
Bryan