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: pole-top cell equipment: would you accept one on the corner of your lot?
Date:	Monday, May 21, 2018 9:44:42 AM

From: Dan Adams [mailto:dan_adams@alumni.stanford.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 12:39 AM
To: Council, City; Architectural Review Board; Clerk, City
Subject: Fwd: pole-top cell equipment: would you accept one on the corner of your lot?

Dear City Council, ARB members, and City Clerk,

I understand the former Planning Director's decision regarding Verizon and pole-mounted communications equipment will be discussed again in response to the appeal from United Neighbors. I encourage you to require the communication companies to provide better solutions for our neighborhoods even if the costs are higher to these companies. In particular, the noise from what I presume are the cooling fans in the current installations in our neighborhood disturb the peace and quiet for those who come within 30 or 40 feet of these installations. While the noise is not loud, it is very noticeable, and is particularly annoying during the quiet morning and evening times. Zero-noise systems must be possible and should be required. It wouldn't hurt to eliminate the eye-sore aspects of the pole-mounted systems as well.

Regards,

Dan Adams
3550 Whitsell Ave
Palo Alto

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Dan Adams** <dan_adams@alumni.stanford.edu>
Date: Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 4:48 PM
Subject: pole-top cell equipment: would you accept one on the corner of your lot?
To: arb@cityofpaloalto.org, city.council@cityofpaloalto.org

Hello members of the ARB and City Council,

I understand there is now a proposal to remove the Architectural Review Board from the process of approving the deployment of pole-top cell equipment in Palo Alto neighborhoods. If this is true, it is imperative to add to the approval process some other reviewing body which can represent the interests of those who would have to live, on a daily basis, with the noise, eye-soreness (made-up word, but seemingly appropriate for this issue), and unknown effects of EM radiation from the pole-top equipment.

If one of these units was to be deployed on a pole which was on the edge of your lot, would you willingly accept this? Would you be happy to have a new source of white noise always audible on your property, to enjoy when you are sitting out in your yard on a quiet spring day?

Instead of accepting more of these things into our neighborhoods, please push the utilities to

come up with a solution which is appropriate for use in residential areas.

I wrote the following last year and am including this text again, for reference.

To the ARP and City Council on Dec 3, 2017:

I believe there must be a better way to handle cell reception problems rather than putting noisy, ugly equipment teetering above people's houses and sidewalks. We should push the telecoms to use other means which don't intrude on the neighborhoods.

In many of Palo Alto's neighborhoods, the rare moments of wonderful quiet (already rare and sandwiched between traffic noise, airplane noise and other noises) pull us back to a feeling of calm and provides a little break from the energy and bustle of daily routines. The pole-top cell equipment cooling fans seem to run constantly, from what I can tell from the units I run by in our neighborhood. From what I have experienced, the sound is noticeably audible from a distance of about 25 feet. The white noise is certainly audible when walking by, and must also be audible in the yards. It seems likely the noise can be heard in the homes of the properties where the equipment is located, at least if the windows are open. While the sound level probably meets the city noise ordinances in terms of measured dB above ambient, the quality of the sound is very different from quiet ambient noise and so is certainly noise pollution which should be kept out of residential neighborhoods.

If you are considering allowing Verizon and others mount these devices on poles, please do this on condition they find a way to use passive cooling rather than fans. Even better, please find other solutions which support cell reception but don't degrade the neighborhood environments.

These devices in our neighborhood also look terrible - like a ridiculous, top-heavy, off-balance-and-leaning, patched-up, add-on, ill-considered solution. With our property values and taxes, we should pass some of the cost to the companies and challenge them aggressively to come up with a solution which looks and sound good, not terrible. We in Palo Alto seem to think good products and good design are important. So why not hold the telecom providers to high standards?

Regards,

Dan Adams and Star Teachout

3550 Whitsell Ave
Palo Alto, CA