



TONY AVELLA

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January 8, 2009

Dear Civic Leader:

I am writing to enlist your support against a problem that has become far too common; the proliferation of cell phone towers within residential neighborhoods. This unwanted nuisance not only destroys the residential character, but presents potential health hazards.

Unfortunately, Federal legislation has hampered local municipalities in their attempts to regulate the placement of these towers.

To further exacerbate an already bad situation, CTIA-The Wireless Association ® (CTIA), who represents the cell phone industry, is attempting to further reduce the limited regulation that municipalities, including New York City, have over cell tower sites by petitioning the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to impose new limitations on local zoning authority. If the FCC grants CTIA's petition, the existence of local municipal regulation over cell tower siting would virtually cease to exist.

To oppose CTIA's petition, I introduced in the City Council, in December, Resolution #1721, which urges the FCC to deny CTIA's application. We must stand firm against these continued attempts by the cell phone industry to seek the removal of any local municipal regulation of their industry. It is extremely important that we maintain the authority to consider issues that affect our neighborhoods. The balance between our right to control zoning decisions in the public interest and access to telecommunication services must be maintained and not completely skewed in favor of the telecommunications industry.

I urge you to write to President-Elect Barack Obama, after he is inaugurated on January 20th, 2009, and the Chairperson of the FCC to request that they deny CTIA's petition. I also ask that you write to City Council Speaker Christine Quinn demanding that she support my resolution. For your convenience, the mailing addresses are:

- Hon. Barack Obama, The President, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500
- Hon. Kevin J. Martin, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554
- Hon. Christine Quinn, City Council Speaker, City Hall, New York, NY 10007

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my District Office at 718-747-2137. Hopefully, our united efforts will be successful in stopping CTIA from obtaining approval to site cell phone towers wherever they please, without any concerns for residents.

Sincerely,

Tony Avella
Council Member
District 19 – Northeast Queens