

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Ave
Brooklyn, New York 11225
Environmental Protection Committee Meeting

March 2, 2023
Meeting ID: 861 8203 1710

Attendance (Board Members): Debbie Timothy, Committee Chair; Theresa Westerdahl, Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales

Attendance (Community Resident Members): N/A

Absent (Board Members): N/A

Absent (Community Resident Members): Kristine Azzoli

Guests: Haley Stark (Community Resident), Jay Sorid (Housing), Leslie Farrar (Housing), Odette Wilkens (Wired Broadband), Rod Herbert (Community Resident) Theodora Scarato (Environmental Health Trust)

Agency Representatives: Khalid Jemmott, Community Associate

- I. Call to order:**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 7:13 pm by Chair Debbie Timothy
- II. Words of Encouragement:** Bishop Hamilton-Gonzales, CB9 Member
- III. Committee Business:**
 - a. Acceptance of the Minutes of February 2, 2023, & Meeting Agenda for March 2, 2023
 - b. Moved by Theresa Westerdahl
 - c. Seconded by Bishop Hamilton-Gonzales
- IV. Introductions/Roll Call**
 - a. Committee members and guests
- V. Open Discussion**
 - a. EPC Committee 2023 goals and outstanding updates on community-related issues feedback from CB9 office.
 - b. Committee Chair for EP asked that all information sent from community / outside organizations be shared with board members so that everyone is on the same page.
 - c. Link5G Cell Towers are a big concern among community residents.

- d. Rod Herbert mentioned his continued effort to have abandoned vehicles removed from the community, storm water discharge issues, EPA Guidelines

VI. **New Business** – 5G Network Developments

- a. Odette Wilkens, President, and General Counsel for Wired Broadband, a nonprofit organization located in Forest Hills. Odette spoke to 5G towers not seeking community input prior to installation. These jumbo towers are approved by the Department of Technology and Telecommunication (DoITT), and the Public Design Commission (PDC).

There are 4,000 of them. They are now being installed in Borough Park and the Upper West Side. It is only a matter of time before they come to other communities. The US Government Accountability Office, in its 2020 report, said that their experts stated that the 5G deployment would likely exacerbate the disparities in accessing telecommunications services, known as the digital divide.

You have probably heard that 5G is supposed to solve the digital divide, in other words, provide people in rural communities or underserved communities with telecommunications service. That is not correct. And that is by the highest Audit Institution in the Federal Government.

We should know what is in these 5G antennas. Residents should be informed about the kinds of antennas, the manufacturer, model number, power density, length, wavelength, frequency, specifications, engineering drawings, everything about them. Odette submitted Freedom of Information Law Requests to the NYC DOITT last year and they continue to request extensions. She said this is unacceptable. She also asked for the proposed locations of the 5G.

Public Design Commission gave conditional approval to have a pilot program to get community input and feedback. Odette urges CB9 community members to disapprove of the moratorium of 5G Link Towers. Cell Towers poses a safety hazard for community residents.

- b. Theodora Scarato, Executive Director, Environmental Health Trust provided **information** why and how to reduce radiofrequency wireless in buildings; she has also presented at the National Institutes of Health, the New Hampshire State 5G Commission, the San Francisco Teachers Union, the University of California San Francisco, and the American Federation of Teachers. Her research interests include not only the effects from radiation exposures but also the social emotional effects of technology overuse. Theodora expressed concerns about the long-term exposure to 5G radiation, the lack of oversight and compliance. Recommendation was made to FCC to halt all installation of 5G towers. Letter was written to NYC Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) Stacey Gardener on January 31, 2023, February 8, 2023, and February 16, 2023. No feedback has been received at this time.
- c. Jay Sorid, Esq. commented on the legal aspects of 5G and land use.

EP Committee members will continue to follow-up on 5G topics and other environmental issues in community.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Khalid

March 8, 2023.