

**COMMUNITY BOARD TEN
JOINT MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL, HOUSING, POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES**

TOPIC 1. Installation of Phone Towers abutting historic Senator Street District

SUMMARY

April, 2005 National Environmental Policy Act requiring cell phone companies to notify Community Boards for Land Use Screening went into effect. Three locations within CB 10 were referred to Environmental Committee. They were 6740 4th Avenue; 6402 Fort Hamilton Parkway; and 910 73 Street.

Senator Street Historic District raised objections to the installation, but requested that if approved they be installed on the east side of the building.

May, 2005 We received several Press calls re: Senator Street Historic District and many papers covered story. T – Mobile representative requested to speak at community Board Meeting.

TOPIC 2. Cellular Phone Towers on Low Rise Residential Building

April, 2004 CB 10 was contacted by five residents living on 77 Street between 5th and 6th Avenue to complain about the installation of cell towers on the roof of 574 77 Street. Two major concerns were emissions of radiation and safety of equipment installed on low rise residential buildings.

CB 10 forwarded complaints to NYC Department of Buildings and City Planning in an attempt to find out about regulations and received the attached response.

September 29, 2004 Community Board Ten – Health and Welfare Committee met to discuss this issue with residents from 77th Street. Community Board Ten motioned and voted to support Resolution 88 calling upon the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to study the long term effects of living and working near multiple antennas. Shortly thereafter the New York City Council voted in favor of Reso 88.

During the Committee meeting several other issues were raised pertaining to the safety of residential buildings. The District Office also received calls from residents on 11th and 13th Avenue concerning cell phone towers on low rise buildings.

June, 2005 Madeline Henley, organized Bay Ridge petition drive, submitting 200 signatures to Community Board. She is resident of 77th Street, has become very active participating with other communities working to find out more information on cellular phones. She requested a follow-up meeting with Community Board Ten to discuss safety concerns on low rise buildings

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

1. Since cellular telephone base stations are now being installed on low rise residential buildings in Bay Ridge/Dyker Heights and through many other NYC communities, residents have asked if inspections are made prior to installation to make sure the weight of base station does not compromise roof?
2. There was a roof collapse of a residential building on Amsterdam Avenue during the installation of a cellular tower base station – after DOB had signed off on permit.
3. Residents say that the roof doors must remain locked on buildings with cellular towers because the equipment is heated... Does this violate FDNY rules?
4. Electric pipes run down buildings into basement – Does FDNY or Buildings inspect for safety.
5. Does FDNY have a list of buildings with the base stations?
6. Some residents have claimed that these units can hurt birds because of heat emissions. Is heat emitted? Are buildings required to fireproof roof tops?
7. Is there a height restriction on placing cell towers on buildings.
8. Are the units filled with chemicals? Can these units go on fire.
9. Many people feel the antennae bring down property values because they aesthetically change the character of residential blocks and they may cause health problems down the road.