

January 4, 2021

Newton City Council
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Re: City Council Item 509-20
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless – Petition for Wireless Grant of Location –
Beethoven Street at Zervas School

Dear City Council Members:

The City of Newton has been asking Verizon Wireless to improve wireless service at the Zervas School for several years. This petition is in response to those requests. At the City Council Public Facilities Committee hearing on December 17, 2020, the Committee heard information from Committee members, the City's Chief Operating Officer, and a member of the public about the important public safety concerns the proposed pole would address by providing better wireless service at the school.

At the meeting on December 17th, two residents who live across the street from the school questioned whether other pole locations could also address the coverage objective for this installation, and Council Members asked Verizon Wireless to respond to those questions by explaining why the other pole locations were not selected. Verizon's representatives explained at the hearing that the proposed pole is the most suitable for meeting the coverage objective because it has the best line of sight to the school itself, the front and rear of the building as well as the student pick up area along Beethoven Street. Verizon also explained that the other pole alternatives are not only farther from the school, but each is also unsuitable because it either includes transformers that make it unsuitable and unavailable for wireless attachment, or is located where the signal would be blocked by the tree canopy.

A December 18, 2020 letter from Mr. Taverna, the City Engineer, requested evaluation of two additional locations in particular – Beacon Street at Paulson Road and Beacon Street at Amy Circle. Both of those locations are also considerably farther from the Zervas School coverage objective, which makes them unsuitable for providing the targeted coverage at the Zervas School that the City has requested.

Robinson+Cole

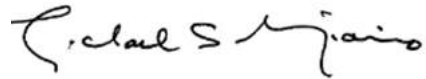
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The pole that is the subject of this petition satisfies the location standards in the City's Procedures and Standards for Grants of Location for Wireless Communications Facilities in the Public Ways. The request for further evaluation of the pole location was in response to concerns about purported health effects, which is not a factor that the Council may properly consider in making its decision. The installation will comply with all applicable federal standards concerning radiofrequency emissions. Verizon Wireless respectfully requests that the Council approve the pending petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Giaimo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and "G".

Michael S. Giaimo

copy: Mayor Ruthanne Fuller (by email)
Louis M. Taverna, City Engineer (by email)
Alan D. Mandl, Asst. City Solicitor (by email)