

March 23, 2010

TO: The Honorable Mayor Jere Wood and the Roswell City Council

FROM: David Shearer
1060 Lake Charles Drive
Roswell, GA 30075

RE: T-Mobile Cell Tower at 1060 Lake Charles Drive

All:

There has been much discussion throughout our neighborhood lately regarding the cell phone tower T-Mobile is proposing to install on my property. Most of the feedback that I have received involves property values and safety concerns associated with the tower. After hearing about the way the crowd reacted at the public meeting and as a matter of record, I would like to state my position on these and other related issues.

First and foremost it is important to know that our family and my business have always supported the City of Roswell as the perfect place to raise a family and grow a business. We have lived here for almost 30 years and over that period of time we have made numerous positive contributions to our community and we will continue to do so.

We own and live on a large tract of land on Lake Charles Drive, a portion of which is undeveloped. When T-Mobile and I first began our discussions about placing a cell phone tower on our undeveloped tract in late 2008, one of our concerns was the impact it would have on the community. As such, during the course of our negotiations and due diligence period, I made several things clear to T-Mobile regarding the tower and its impact. Visual impact, access, and safety were a primary concern. In the end we agreed that the tower would be a mono-tower designed to look like a pine tree. It would not be more than 108 feet tall, (our mature pines are approximately 95 feet tall) and the power output would be maintained at a level of 0.1 microwatts/cm² much like the towers in Europe and .0001% of what the Federal Communications Commission allows in the US. In addition, access would be limited to the front part of our property, the area where the tower would be placed would be no more than 2500 sq/ft, there would be no generator, and the security fencing around the tower would be designed to blend in with the residential area and environment. All of these things were agreed to and are documented between us.

As for the affect this will have on property values, I see this addition to our community as a value added resource and I believe this service will ultimately add value to our properties as time goes by.

Visually, the tower would be located in a fairly secluded area on my property and would have little visual impact. Since a tower must go somewhere in this area, my track is a reasonable location. When you ride or walk up and down Lake Charles Drive there are numerous utility poles, wiring, and apparatus hanging everywhere. It is an ugly sight but we are all acclimated to the view and we appreciate the value these services add to our neighborhood. I can assure you if these services were removed, the property value in the area would go down. Of course, all of these utilities could have been placed underground to lessen the visual impact. Similarly, that is what I am suggesting by placing this tower on my property away from the public eye verses the way it would have looked had the tower been placed at the fire station at the end of Lake Charles Drive.

As for the safety of the tower, per T-Mobile, exposure of this cell site is 0.1 microwatts/cm2, less than a Wi-Fi router at 0.13 microwatts/cm2 or a baby monitor at 1 microwatts/cm2, or a cordless phone at 15 microwatts/cm2. This same low output wireless technology is used successfully all over Europe with great success and is the prevalent means of communication. Utility poles and wiring are not used for communication nearly as much as they are here.

For those at the public meeting who wanted to know how the process began, you can tell them that I contacted T-Mobile after the fire station location was turned down. We supported this location and we were hoping this would solve the service problem that exists in this area. We live in an area that has little or no cell phone coverage and we have been trying for years to have service increased in our area. When my wife was expecting our daughter several years ago and while I was out of town, we temporarily lost power and land line telephone service at our house. On that day, my wife experienced a need to speak with her doctor and she had to walk to the end of our 900ft driveway in the dark to place a phone call on her cell phone because we had no cellular service at our house.

In closing, I would like to say that as a property owner, it is my constitutional right to utilize my land in any way that I choose as long as the utilization is with-in the confines of the law and no neighborhood organization or individual has the right to dictate what I do with my property as long as those guidelines are followed. I support the installation of this tower whether it is installed on my property or anywhere else nearby that would increase the level of service in this area. We use wireless systems in our business every day and as wireless technology continues to advance, the benefits of this service will become more and more prevalent in our lives and we will learn not to fear it. If this tower is installed and the dust is allowed to settle this issue will be forgotten and we will all enjoy the value this resource adds to our community. I plan to remain neutral during the approval process and I will accept any decision that is legally made.

Sincerely,

David
Shearer

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Cc: Mr. Brad Townsend