

Cell Tower Moratoriums, Setbacks and Halts

Recent Examples from the United States.

2015: Walnut California- 1500 Cell Tower Setback from Schools and Homes

Telecommunication towers and antennas shall not be located within 1500 feet of any school, park residential on, sporting venue or outdoor recreation area

<http://www.ci.walnut.ca.us/upload/PC08-05-2015-Item01.pdf>

Hempstead Town in Long Island,

No new cell towers or antennae shall be located closer than 1500 feet to a residential home, house of worship, day care center or school.

<http://www.toh.li/permits-and-applications/wireless-telecom-ordinance>

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND MEDICINE

- Official Position Against Cell Towers
- "The IAFF opposes the use of fire stations as base stations for towers and/or antennas for the conduction of cell phone transmissions until a study with the highest scientific merit and integrity on health effects of exposure to low-intensity RF/MW radiation is conducted and it is proven that such sitings are not hazardous to the health of our members." iaff.org/HSFacts/CellTowerFinal.asp.

United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 IAFF-CIO-CLC Opposes Cell Towers on Their Stations.

- " It is inexcusable that once again our firefighters in the field were the last to know about a massive 150 million dollar project that could jeopardize their health and safety. ... nobody talked to us and we have not heard from one single expert who has told us that this project will be safe."
- "UFLAC will strongly oppose the use of Fire Stations as base locations for cell towers and/or antennas "

DownLoad the letter from this [LA Firefighters Union Local 112 asking for an immediate halt to cell towers on fire stations..](#)

West Lin-Wilsonville School Board in Oregon Prohibits Cell Towers on and adjacent to school property

- The school board, saying it is "erring on the side of caution," adopted a policy this month prohibiting commercial microwave technology sites and will oppose those proposed for sites adjacent to school boundaries.

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/09/west_linnwilsonville_school_bo.html

Bar Harbor, Maine

The Town has a communication tower ordinance a provision for a 1,500 feet setback for cell towers near schools and day care facilities.

Canada: The Vancouver School Board passed a resolution prohibiting construction of cellular antennas within 1000 feet of school property.

Michigan, HOUGHTON -- Concerned Houghton parents are now relieved; the Verizon cell phone tower is no longer happening by the school.

- The 75-foot tower was planned to sit 300 feet south from the Houghton-Portage Township Schools. Parents found out Tuesday that Verizon has backed out the plan. Several parents were against the tower, saying it can lead to brain cancer.

<http://www.uppermichiganssource.com/news/story.aspx?id=1211309#.VWpOfitZ-JU>

Spokane Washington, City Council puts moratorium on cell towers

- Last night city council members voted unanimously for a six month moratorium that includes current applications, on any new cell towers in the City of Spokane.
<http://www.khq.com/story/28360355/city-council-puts-moratorium-on-cell-towers>

Dekalb County Georgia Drops School Tower Plan

Jan 2015

- Dekalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader from District 2 has issued [a press release](#) about the end to the six-way battle between the residents, the school board, the school administration, the county commissioners and the county CEO's office and, of course, T-mobile. "The proposed policy turns on the inherent incompatibility of a free-standing antenna with a surrounding single family neighborhood, and not on the concerns that some citizens have about the radio waves generated by the antenna. "
- Superintendent Michael Thurmond reports that the contracts for all 9 of the schools originally slated for T Mobile cell towers "have been dropped." Read the Press Release HERE
<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a804613b8cccee6286d4bfc9f&id=eb430f3199&e=4be7a89575>

"To sublease the land right out from under the children is bad enough, but to do it without even respecting the local zoning regulations and safety ordinances put in place to protect people who live there defies the moral code of most real "persons".

- The new zoning ordinance can be found online at <http://planningdekalb.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/finalDraftZoningCodeJan20151.pdf>
- **School Cell Tower Lawsuits in Georgia** "This is a victory for the children in DeKalb schools and the residents who live near DeKalb schools," May said in a statement. "The court's decisions is consistent with the county's position that private actors on school property have to comply with the county's zoning codes." http://news.blog.ajc.com/2015/01/20/school-cell-tower-lawsuits-conclude/#__federated=1

Alameda: School leaders call for removal of cell phone towers

- "Trustees with the Alameda Unified School District have called on AT&T to remove its cell phone towers at two campuses after parents and others said they feared emissions from the towers could threaten children's health." In addition to the AT&T towers at Maya Lin and Wood, T-Mobile has a tower at Alameda High School on Encinal Avenue. Sprint/Nextel recently removed its tower from Wood.
- http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_26600698/alameda-school-leaders-call-removal-cell-phone-towers

- **Alameda Unified to cancel cell tower contracts** “In a closed-door session, the board opted to direct school district staff to notify the owners of cell antennae installed atop Maya Lin School and Will C. Wood Middle School that their contracts will be terminated, board president Margie Sherratt announced at the start of Tuesday’s school board meeting.

<http://blog.sfgate.com/inalameda/2014/09/10/alameda-unified-to-cancel-cell-tower-contracts/>

Maryland, Greenbelt:

[The Greenbelt Maryland City Council voted *unanimously* on November 24, 2014](#)

1. Alert citizens about the fine print warnings and possible health risks of cell phones and wireless devices By sharing the Environmental Health Trusts 10 Steps to Safe Tech and Doctors Advice on Cell Phones Brochure in City health fairs and city centers.
2. To send [the FCC Chairman a letter](#) urging the adoption of “radiation standards that will protect human health and safety.”
3. To oppose cell towers on school grounds and write a letter to the local school board and County Executive.

Teton County . Wyoming

Teton County puts moratorium on new cell towers

- The moratorium approved last week will give the county time to write new cell-tower regulations. “But Melissa Wittstruck of the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance says current county cell tower regulations are outdated and insufficient to deal with modern laws and equipment.”

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/teton-county-puts-moratorium-on-new-cell-towers/article_36eefdfc-1dbf-5131-be4c-7998f8e285f2.html#ixzz3UOw2nVOW

Los Angeles Unified School District Resolution Opposing Wireless Telecommunication Installations at Schools

- Resolved, That the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles petition the California Environmental Protection Agency to perform the appropriate research and experimentation to determine the effects of non-ionizing radiation on the health, of not only adults, but children who are the most vulnerable and, if appropriate, establish a safe level of exposure; and be it
- Resolved, further, That the Board of Education oppose the future placement of cellular telecommunications towers on or immediately adjacent to school property

currently owned by the District until appropriate regulatory standards are adopted.

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/54045122e4143e4f31cdd7827aa9391c?AccessKeyId=045114F8E0676B9465FB&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

Taiwan removed 1500 cell towers near schools

“Residential neighborhoods and schools must not be exposed to the risk of radiation emitted by the MPBSs that could cause cancer, miscarriages and diseases of the nervous system”

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/2007/11/06/129715/1500-cellphone.htm>

Maine

West Gardiner enacts cell tower and wind turbine moratorium

- The town adopted the moratorium at a special town meeting Saturday in response to a plan to build a cellphone tower on Crams Point on Cobbossee Lake. <http://www.centralmaine.com/2014/09/04/west-gardiner-enacts-cell-tower-and-wind-turbine-moratorium/>

CHARLESTON Illinois

Council confirms cell tower moratorium, November 10, 2014 5:33 pm

- A newly passed moratorium means no new cellphone towers in Charleston for at least six months. City council members passed the moratorium on issuing permits for telecommunications towers or antennae during a special session . It was approved to give council members time to research and bring their findings before the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning, Mayor Larry Rennels said.
- http://jg-tc.com/news/council-confirms-cell-tower-moratorium/article_43d54324-6676-5f6d-8081-13ef792b655b.html

Lebanon, Tennessee

Commissioners vote Yes on cell tower moratorium

- A moratorium on new cell tower applications. “Thomas said he wanted to amend the resolution so that the moratorium would be a period "up to 365 days" and that the moratorium "does not apply if the tower is 1,500 feet or more from a residential area or school."

<http://www.lebanondemocrat.com/article/wilson-county/420096>

Juneau Alaska

Juneau Assembly OKs cell tower moratorium

- The moratorium blocks permitting of new wireless communications towers until May 19. Between now and then the assembly hopes to adopt a master plan regulating where and how cell towers are built. *“What we should have is an opportunity, real opportunities, for the public to participate both in the structuring of the final ordinance, and during the siting of different towers,” he said.*

<http://www.ktoo.org/2014/02/25/juneau-assembly-oks-cell-tower-moratorium/>

Transylvania County North Carolina

Voting on a Moratorium

- “There will be a hearing by the [Transylvania County](#) Board of Commissioners to consider placing a six month moratorium on accepting applications for new telecommunications towers. This moratorium is only temporary, the purpose of which is to allow the commissioners sufficient time to revise the current 18-year old tower ordinance that is now outdated.”

[San Miguel County Extends Moratorium on Cell Towers](#)

- 01/27/13 – The San Miguel County Commissioners approved a six-month extension of an emergency moratorium on development of new telecommunication towers. The moratorium halts the development of new telecommunication towers that are 35-feet in height or taller and related facilities proposed to be located in any and all zone districts, except the county’s West End Zone District. ..The purpose of the moratorium is to provide time to amend the San Miguel County Land Use Code in order to develop and update code

provisions that deal with the installation of new cellular towers their related facilities.

<http://www.thewatchmedia.com/san-miguel-county-extends-moratorium-on-cell-towers-2/>

Maine,

Eustis cell tower public hearing heated, moratorium extended

- “Eustis’ moratorium on cell towers will continue till the end of the year, and beyond if needed, until the planning board can draft a cell tower ordinance that is acceptable to the town.”

http://www.theirregular.com/news/2012-10-31/Front_Page/Eustis_cell_tower_public_hearing_heated_moratorium.html

Kirkwood. Missouri

Council Approves Moratorium On New Cell Towers

- **September 13, 2013**
- The [Webster Groves](#) City Council on Sept. 3 approved imposing a moratorium of up to six months on the issuing of permits for the development, construction or placement of wireless communications infrastructure, including wireless cell towers, within the city. The moratorium was needed to allow the city time to study whether to update its own laws regarding wireless communications infrastructure, in light of new state laws that were to have become effective Aug. 28, according to City Attorney Helmut Starr.
- <http://www.websterkirkwoodtimes.com/Articles-Webster-Groves-i-2013-09-13-189459.114137-Council-Approves-Moratorium-On-New-Cell-Towers.html#ixzz3UOtd4zSp>

Maine, Brooksville

With heavy turnout, Brooksville enacts cell tower moratorium at special town meeting

- <https://penobscotbaypress.com/news/2010/oct/7/heavy-turnout-brooksville-enacts-cell-tower-morato/#.VQSyB4s-BR4>

Silver Spring Montgomery County Maryland

Breaking NEWS; AT&T Withdraws Cell Tower Plans in Face of Community Opposition. 2014

AT&T Withdraws Cell Tower Plans in Face of Community Opposition.

- Silver Spring, MD – In what amounted to a David vs. Goliath faceoff, New Cingular Wireless (AT&T Mobility) has cancelled its plans to build a 101 foot high commercial cell tower on the Sligo Baptist Church property at 1610 Dennis Avenue in Silver Spring (MD, 20902) in an environmentally sensitive section of a residential neighborhood and in the face of stiff neighborhood opposition. ‘We had the facts and the community on our side. They should never have considered this location given that such a tower would harm the forest, wildlife, storm water ponds, and people.’
- In other communities, cell towers have led to diesel oil leaks, fires, noise, and property values being reduced up to 20 percent. For more information, visit www.CellTowerNOT.weebly.com.

Durham North Carolina 03/11/2015

- New cell-tower rules for Durham move forward, Proposed new rules on cellphone towers give homeowners more say about “monopines” being built in their neighborhoods.
- The commission voted to recommend that the council and commissioners adopt the new rules as drafted, but with one change: that property zoned “Rural Residential” have the same height restrictions as other non-rural zones if the property is within a “suburban” zoning tier.
- The revised rules also:
 - ▪ Require a tower owner to have \$1 million worth of liability insurance; currently, there is no insurance requirement.
 - ▪ Treat most monopines – towers disguised to resemble pine trees – as “non-concealed” WCFs so they then need special-use permits.
 - ▪ Restrict tower height in most residential zones to 20 feet above whatever the base zoning allows – generally, 35 feet.
 - ▪ Increases the required setback from property lines and natural-gas pipes to 120 percent of the tower’s height or 85 feet, whichever is greater, so that adjoining property will not be damaged in case of a collapse.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/community/durham-news/article13546709.html#storylink=cpy>

Santa Fe New Mexico

Santa Fe School Board Unanimous: No Cell Tower by Gonzales School

- “The 1996 Telecommunications Act disqualifies local opposition to cell tower siting based on health concerns, but this didn’t stop community members from stating the obvious: they are worried for their children’s health. Gonzales parent Dee Beingessner’s statement captured the sense of the meeting: “I have applied for a transfer already for all four of my children to leave Gonzales Elementary if a cell tower is erected. If the transfers don’t go through, my children—all four of them—will go to private schools, unfortunately. I’m a big believer in public schools, but I will not risk the health and safety of my children.”
- <https://lajicarita.wordpress.com/2013/03/21/santa-fe-school-board-unanimous-no-cell-tower-by-gonzales-school/>

Milpitas Calif. School Board votes to move cell tower

- Milpitas Post, Mar 11, 2015
- “The board gave staff direction to ask Crown Castle and its customer T-Mobile to relocate the cell tower on campus to a more remote location at Rancho, with a technical feasibility study to come over the next four months.”
- <http://bayareane.ws/1MvAOSp>

Laguna Beach, California

- St. Catherine church won't get wireless antennas, AT&T says
- “[AT&T](#), responding to community outcry, has decided to drop a plan to install wireless equipment in an existing tower at St. Catherine of Siena Parish to boost service in Laguna Beach.”
- <http://www.coastlinepilot.com/news/tn-cpt-me-0220-wireless-antenna-20150219,0.3937911.story>

California: Parents blast school district regarding on-campus cell towers

- San Jose Mercury News, Jan 29, 2015
- <http://bayareane.ws/1zn4fXT>

Virginia Rappahannock County

School board declines cell tower lease

- 1:30 p.m. Jan. 15 By a vote of 3-2, the Rappahannock County School Board Tuesday night (Jan. 13) voted against entering a controversial lease agreement with Community Wireless Structures (CWS), the Arlington company which had offered to construct a monopole for prospective mobile carriers on high school property.

- <http://www.rappnews.com/2015/01/15/school-board-declines-cell-tower-lease-2/139129/>

California: Capitola City Council says no to Verizon cell tower

- Santa Cruz Sentinel, Jan 14, 2015
- <http://bit.ly/1CLSlau>

India: Zilla Parishad orders removal of cellphone towers near schools in district

- **Times of India, Jan 6, 2015**
- Cellphone towers located within a 50-metre radius from a school's premises will be removed
- There are over 1,000 cellphone towers in the district, Umap said. "Various studies by scientists have shown that the radiation from cellphone towers is proving to be a health hazard. Students will be exposed to such radiation if these towers are located close to schools. We will see to it that the health of students is given the priority and cellphone towers will be moved away from schools." ...
- <http://bit.ly/1DbJD8H>

Massachusetts

Worcester city council backs neighbors in fight against cell tower

- The Worcester City Council took action Tuesday night to support neighbors opposing the installation of a 150-foot cell tower on the EcoTarium's land on Harrington Way.
- http://www.masslive.com/news/worcester/index.ssf/2014/12/worcester_city_council_backs_n.html

Los Angeles, California

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, to "actively seek and support federal legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority imposed by the Telecommunications Act

of 1996 that infringe upon the authority of local governments to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and other personal wireless services facilities on the basis of the health and environmental effects of these facilities."

Tucson, Arizona

The Pima County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on August 4, 2009, calling "for the U.S. Congress and the Obama administration to repeal Section 704 of the Federal Telecommunication Act of 1996, and otherwise let local jurisdictions control fully the siting, construction and installation of wireless communications facilities in order to ensure that their constituents' environment, health and safety are protected from the potentially damaging effects of electromagnetic radiation."

Sebastopol City Council

The City Council of Sebastopol, California, passed a resolution on July 7, 2009, instructing the City's legislative advocates "to actively seek and support federal legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority imposed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that infringe upon the authority of local governments to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of telecommunications towers and other wireless facilities on the basis of the health and environmental effects of these facilities."

Glendale, California

The City Council of Glendale, California, passed a resolution on June 9, 2009, directing the City staff "to have its federal legislative advocates communicate to the U.S. Congress, the President and executive branch members to: (1) actively seek and support federal legislation that would give local governments greater flexibility to regulate the placement of wireless communications facilities given the unique aesthetic and safety issues that said facilities raise and to regulate such facilities in favor of less intrusive and more efficient technologies; (2) urge that the federal government engage in a comprehensive study of the effects of Wireless facilities RF emissions to assess the health impacts of these emissions; and (3) to review and revise those provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, including but not limited to Section 332(c)(7)(B), that limit or compromise the rights of local zoning authorities to govern over the placement, construction

and modification of wireless communications facilities on the basis of environmental effects of radio frequency emissions, until all environmental exposures are cumulatively considered."

Portland City Council

The City Council of Portland, Oregon, passed a resolution on May 12, 2009, requesting "the FCC to work in cooperation with the FDA and other relevant federal agencies to revisit and update studies on potential health concerns arising from RF wireless emissions in light of the national proliferation of wireless use."

Albany, California

The City Council of Albany, California, passed a resolution on July 20, 2009, requesting "the FCC to work in cooperation with the FDA and other relevant federal agencies to revisit and update studies on potential health concerns arising from RF wireless emissions in light of the national proliferation of wireless use."

Agoura Hills, California

The City Council of Agoura Hills, California, passed a resolution on December 9, 2009, that "Urges Congress to initiate and pursue legislation to repeal those sections of the 1996 Telecommunications Act that preempt local control and prevent local governments from considering health effects when deciding whether to approve a wireless communications facility... Informs the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that the City opposes the unrestricted use of rights of way for wireless telecommunications facilities."

Santa Barbara, California

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on November 10, 2009, that states, "There is ongoing debate within the scientific community regarding how thoroughly the long-term health effects of low-frequency electromagnetic and radio-frequency emissions are understood and questions regarding how well the existing regulations established by the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] protect more vulnerable populations such as school-aged children..." The resolution urges the County's Congressional representatives to initiate and pursue legislation to repeal the health pre-emption in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and opposes the unrestricted use of right-of-ways for wireless facilities.

L.A. County Firefighters Local 1014

- Local 1014 has a webpage dedicated to stopping towers because of a plan to install them on over 200 of their stations. This plan violates zoning laws which are being circumvented. <http://www.stopcellphonetowers.com/index.html>
- “As firefighters and paramedics, we live in these firehouses. What effect will these towers have on us? What are the risks to our neighbors? It’s a no-brainer that LA County should at least have done a proper study before before putting 200-foot high-power microwave antennas on top of our heads.”

- Dave Gillotte, Active Duty Fire Captain
President, LA County Firefighters Local 1014