

August 12, 2004

Assemblyman Scott Stringer
230 West 72nd Street, Suite 2F
New York, NY 10023

Re: Cell Phone Antenna Legislation

Dear Assemblymember Stringer,

The proliferation of cell phone antennas throughout New York City is raising concern among residents, neighborhood groups, and elected officials. While few would deny the benefit of wireless communication, fewer still would say the City should have almost no control or oversight over where and how these antennas are being placed.

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 is especially concerned, because many residential buildings in Clinton and Chelsea were built in the 19th century and we suspect their roofs were not designed to serve as platforms for cell phone antennas. Nor were our schools. The news that Schools Chancellor Joel Klein apparently plans to rent public school rooftop space to cell phone companies gives added urgency to these concerns.

They include:

- Are the antennas structurally safe? Especially those at the edge of small buildings fronting heavily trafficked commercial avenues ?
- Are people living, working, or studying directly underneath the roofs in any potential danger?
- Are there any limits to the number of antennas which can be placed on roofs?
- Why aren't telecommunication companies themselves required to inspect or monitor the sites?
- Parts of Chelsea are historic districts. Part of Clinton is a special district. Are there any aesthetic guidelines to the design and placement of the antennas?
- Is there any public review of the placement of these antennas?
- As we understand it, antennas send and receive signals from cell phones using radio frequency radiation at frequencies between 800 and 1990 megahertz which is greater than most FM radios and television broadcasts but less than microwave oven frequencies. Is the constancy of radiation emissions and the proximity of antennas to humans dangerous?

S. Stringer
August 12, 2004
Page 2 of 2

- Are there any long-term health risks posed by these antennas?

A bill introduced by State Assemblyman Michael Gianaris has been sent to the Cities Committee, which you chair. This bill would require the creation of regulations for the siting of wireless facilities. Criteria such as location, aesthetics, the public hearing process, and proof of need would be evaluated. In addition, this legislation would direct the Department of Health to conduct a study about the health effects of radio frequency signals used by wireless communication facilities.

We hope you will give serious attention to this bill and to similar bills which come before your committee.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair

Millie Glaberman
Co-chair
Quality of Life Committee

JD Noland
Co-chair
Quality of Life Committee

cc Assemblymember Richard Gottfried